

THE
SPANISH CAMPAIGN.



A NOVEL.

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THE
SPANISH CAMPAIGN;

OR,
THE JEW.

A Nobel.

—w—w—w—
IN THREE VOLUMES.

—w—w—w—
BY
MRS. MEEKE,

AUTHOR OF
CONSCIENCE, MATRIMONY, MIDNIGHT WEDDINGS, NINE DAYS'
WONDER, TALE OF MYSTERY, &c. &c.

Look round, how Providence bestows alike
Sunshine and rain to bless the fruitful year,
On different nations, all of different faiths:
And (tho' by several names and titles worshipp'd)
Heaven takes the various tribute of their praise,
Since all agree to own, at least to mean,
One best, one greatest, only Lord of all.

ROWE.

—w—w—w—
VOL. II.

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CHAP. I.

HAVING liberated our hero from his confinement, we shall accompany him in his way. There was no moon, of course we cannot describe the effect of its rays upon the cypress trees, rich orchards, or luxuriant vineyards; though had it been lighter, and had Charles been in less haste, he would not have suffered the remains of various fortifications, which had long braved the Moorish arms, to have passed unnoticed, as they are always interesting in the eyes of a soldier; but the feeble light of the stars merely enabled him to discern his path till he reached the high-road, when he

ran less risk of losing himself, but was certainly in more danger of falling in with ~~the~~ patrols of the enemy. He therefore mended his pace, frequently running—stopping from time to time to listen; and he had not advanced more than three miles, when he heard horsemen advancing. Convinced they must be the dreaded and expected patrol, he instantly left the high-road, and extended himself flat on his face in a hollow till they were past, when he thought himself nearly out of danger; still he kept on at a very quick rate, dreading a surprise, unprepared as he was to act on the defensive; but at the expiration of a couple of hours, he allowed himself time to breathe, as he fancied he became acquainted with the face of the country; and never had he experienced a more heartfelt joy than upon being challenged by a Briton. He instantly declared his name, and the sentinel as instantly returned, “Is it you, Mr. Franklin? how happy I am to hear your voice, as I cannot yet discern your features!”

Charles stopped to make a few inquiries; his having been surprised was now generally known, as the major part of his brave subalterns had returned to the camp in safety; he therefore determined to proceed immediately to head-quarters, where he arrived at daybreak; and soon after the officers began to assemble, who were all eager to congratulate him upon his speedy return, and very anxious to learn how he had contrived to effect his escape. He entered into a few general details respecting whither he had been carried, adding, "It would take me too much time to relate how I contrived to escape, though it was, thanks to the Moors, to the French being unacquainted with some of the outlets of my late habitation:"—but having requested a private audience of colonel Davers, he briefly recapitulated how he had learnt the retreat of *donna Victoria*, and what had proved the result of their interview; he then entered at large into a plan which he had formed during his walk from the Castle, adding, "But should my scheme,

upon mature deliberation, appear too hazardous, I hope I shall be allowed to remove the unfortunate donna Victoria, and some, if not all her treasures."

"That you stand bound to do, my brave boy, and I own I think your other scheme promises well; but we must hear what our general says to the plan, before we debate the business more seriously."

The commander-in-chief entered at once into the spirit of the undertaking. "British soldiers are never deterred by difficulties," he observed; "they were always ready to perform even impossibilities in a glorious cause, and here seemed to be every prospect of success. Franklin should turn knight-errant, and be supported in his well-planned enterprise by a select body of cavalry, who might, by taking a circuitous route, proceed to within a couple of miles of the Castle, at which distance it might be most prudent to leave their horses, and proceed on foot to the river: should they, as might be expected, find the young lady awaiting their approach, Charles, who

could hold a parley with her, must give in his report, and his companions must be guided more or less by his advice: he felt inclined to trust implicitly to his prudence, as he was convinced that he would not rashly endanger the lives of his brother soldiers, nor attempt to surprise the garrison, except he had every prospect of success; at all events, they would be able to bring off donna Victoria, and what she deemed most valuable and most portable."

Charles was highly elated at being thus permitted to execute his well-digested plan; and at nine that evening he set out, in excellent spirits, to achieve his sort of Quixote adventure. The officer who commanded the chosen body of men selected for this service, amounting to sixty-five in number, was one of his intimate friends, and very eager to second his views, as he should share the honour of the enterprise; and to be placed in the road to glory was all he required of his general.

Heaven seemed to favour their under-

taking, as they had not proceeded far ere it began to thunder, which was succeeded by a pouring rain. None of the party grieved at being completely drenched, since the darkness of the night prevented their being seen, and the war of elements might also prevent their being heard, and possibly prevent their falling in with any of the enemy's patrols.

As they had flattered themselves, they met with no impediment to retard their progress, save a few peasants, who were now so accustomed to see different parties of soldiers of either nation, that they scarcely noticed their approach, or the road they pursued, contenting themselves with crying, "Success to the patriots!",

Having reached a wood about the given distance from their place of destination, they dismounted; and leaving their horses in charge of some of the men, who were to hasten forward, if required, upon a concerted signal, the captain who commanded the little troop, guided by our hero, proceeded at the head of fifty-seven brave,

resolute fellows, each armed with a broad sword and a brace of pistols. When once they reached the river, Charles made no doubt of leading them to the precise spot which the bridge would reach, should donna Victoria be at hand to turn it over ; as she might, owing to the weather, have given up all hopes of seeing him, still he thought she would be in waiting ; at all events, he pushed forward, his little party more slowly bringing up the rear. Scarcely had he, by the glimmering light which the breaking of the clouds afforded him, distinguished the Moorish pavilion, ere he heard the Castle clock proclaim the hour of midnight.

“ Surely,” he thought, “ donna Victoria would not disappoint me—no, that was impossible, and she could not be aware of the late storm, which was now blowing over, except she had been in waiting at least a couple of hours.” Such were his reflections while he stood opposite the pavilion, when to his great joy, he thought he saw some one move within the retreat, and in answer

to a signal agreed upon between them when they separated, he saw her wave her hand. She was dressed in black, and had lain for the last hour along the bench, not to excite notice, should any one remark the building from the opposite side. Joyfully did she send the bridge across; Charles ran over, and eagerly seized her trembling hand, which he raised to his lips, while he whispered, "I hope I have insured your liberation, my fair friend; I have a strong party of friends, prepared to act either upon the offensive or defensive, as circumstances may require; so now tell me whether any material alteration has taken place in the disposition of the troops whom I left in possession of the Castle."

"Not that I know of, my generous friend: I believe your unexpected departure created some bustle, as the general was sent for; you was not missed till your breakfast was taken into your room, when all appeared to be hurry and confusion, as I was, as you will suppose, upon the listen. Captain Beaumanoir summoned the men

who had been upon duty during the night, and vowed vengeance against them all; he also affected to have discovered where you had scaled the wall; and I heard him say, he wished you had broken your neck in the attempt. God help you, should you ever again fall into his power; he sent out several parties in various directions, for mere form sake, I should suppose, or to be beforehand with the general, who soon arrived, as I heard his voice when he examined the place where the captain maintained you had climbed the wall. The general did not make any stay, as his presence was required at his quarters, I understood: your men are to be removed tomorrow, and a reinforcement is to be sent hither, as they fear the Castle will be attacked, if only in revenge for your seizure; they also mentioned me, but do not seem to have an idea where I have sought a retreat."

"How should they, my kind friend? but as even moments are precious, will you have the goodness to return to your prison,

and just show a light, to guide our steps—of course your lamp is burning?”

“I left it so—and I will endeavour to enact the heroine, though nature never intended me for such an undertaking; but self-preservation will call forth the courage even of the most timid.”

“You can have nothing to fear, and we cannot lose ourselves when once within the vaulted passage; there we can follow each other, only take care to enable us to distinguish your room. One question more, and then I will release you—has any one taken possession of my late apartment, or are there any sentinels in the inner court?”

“I am certain your prison remains untenanted, and there have been no sentinels in the court since your departure was discovered.”

“Then every thing seems to favour my plan; so while you retrace your steps to your gloomy abode, I will go in search of my companions, who were to halt on the

other side of the river till I came to summon them forward."

"Remember, my friend, the bridge is not calculated to admit of more than one person passing at a time."

"Thanks for your caution!" replied Charles, returning to impart what he had learnt to his *auxiliaries*.

Suffice it to say, that in another quarter of an hour they were all within the arched passage, each holding by the other, as those in the rear could not distinguish the mere glimmering light which proceeded from the room, where they at last silently assembled. Donna Victoria could only bow her thanks to the officers, while she pointed out her remaining stock of wine and biscuits to their notice, which, wet and fatigued as they all were, proved a very seasonable refreshment, as each man received at least half a pint, of an excellent quality, which so cheered their spirits, that they were ready to encounter an armed host, if required.

Charles then requested donna Vic-

toria would lead to the secret entrance into his late apartment, observing, "that let what would be the result of their attempt to secure the garrison, she might depend upon their securing her retreat, and they would also carry off best part, if not all her valuables."

Donna Victoria could have wished they had contented themselves with removing her and her treasures, but both officers and men were anxious to make the most of so unexpected an opportunity to render themselves masters of such a body of French. With due precaution, having previously ascertained that no one was within hearing, the false back was removed: the light having been previously shrouded, Charles crept through, and having assured himself that the room was unoccupied, the captain, other officers, and their men, silently followed him, and the lamp they had brought was uncovered, when Charles briefly pointed out the situation of the offices; and the captain as speedily, in conjunction with him, arranged their plan.

of attack: an equal number of soldiers were to enter each room, or dormitory, over the stables, at the same moment, while others were appointed to secure those who slept in the more remote out-buildings, and to take care to secure the sentinels in the first moment, or else, to silence them more effectually, those to whom this necessary task was allotted were to dart forward the moment they entered the court. The officers, whom it was known slept within the Castle, were to be suffered to remain undisturbed till the last, as the men might be all secured ere they were apprized, or aware of what was going forward. Charles had settled not to be present when captain Beaumanoir was secured, whom it was resolved to treat with the greatest lenity, and he wished to spare him even the mortification of seeing him in the character of his conqueror and foe.

One of the soldiers, a carpenter by trade, was come prepared with tools to open the door into the passage, which he did, with great dexterity, in a very short time, with little or no noise; and as they cautiously

advanced, they had no reason to suppose that any one was aware of their proximity or approach. With the greatest precaution they unclosed the door leading into the court: again they listened; the same silence prevailed. Had it been practicable, Charles wished, in the first instance, to have liberated his own men, who would have been of great assistance to their enterprise; but upon mature deliberation, they agreed that the attempt might disconcert their plans, as they were confined in a remote part of the building, and the least alarm would put the enemy upon their guard.

The door being now opened, Charles pointed out the different staircases leading to the rooms where it was supposed the men were lodged. The captain took the lead with his party to ascend the one facing them, while his lieutenant and our hero were each to lead a party up those to the right and left.

Scarcely had the captain advanced a few paces, when he was challenged by a

sentinel, who came from beneath an arch, which had concealed him from their view, who perceiving the number of armed men who rushed out of the Castle at the moment he spoke, gave the alarm, and the next moment he was cut down by the commanding officer, who, fearing he had roused his comrades, hastened, as did the other parties, up the respective stairs; and as the soldiers were all in their first sleep when the sentinel cried "to arms," they were secured with very little trouble, and still less bustle, as each officer declared, that if one man made any resistance, the whole party should be put to the sword; which threat, as they expected, had the desired effect of awing them into immediate submission. By the light of a few lamps suspended in the dormitories, their arms were seized, and they were handcuffed.

While those above were thus easily secured, the party below were more actively engaged, as they did not so well know where to find about twenty of the garrison, who were lodged upon the ground floor, who

therefore made some resistance, as they were attacked by a very inferior number; but these were so immediately reinforced, that they thought it most prudent to surrender at discretion, as their comrades had done before them

Thus, in less than twenty minutes, the British were completely masters of the garrison, if we except the captain and first-lieutenant, who, from being lodged within the Castle, towards the garden, had not heard even the little bustle that had occurred, much less the sentinel, who ought to have been more alert, and nearer the door; and he had been so immediately killed, he had not roused them by his single cry.

But the inferior officers and men being safely secured, the British captain and two of his men went in search of Beaumanoir and his lieutenant, preceded by a French corporal, who dared not refuse to become their guide.

The officers were sound asleep, in a two-bedded room; but Beaumanoir no

sooner opened his eyes, when seeing a British officer standing over him, desiring him to ~~surrender~~, he exclaimed, "This is all owing to that treacherous Englishman, whom I suffered to ~~escape~~."

"Did you then connive at the departure of the officer you are so ready to accuse?" retorted the captain.

"No, I certainly did not do that; but it is owing to my lenity that I am now, in my turn, a prisoner."

"This is not the time to debate the point, sir, so may I request you would hasten to dress; if, as you say, you have shown any particular indulgence to an Englishman, we, his countrymen, will not show ourselves ungrateful; therefore you may command my services and my best offices, while you remain our prisoner."

"You wish to cheer my spirits; but pray tell me how you gained admittance within these walls? are my men all secured? I hope you did not effect your purpose by treachery?"

"No, on my honour; your men were, like

yourself, taken by surprise ; had time been allowed them, we should have paid dearer for our conquest : we entered by the same road lieutenant Franklin traversed, when he eluded your vigilance."

" Wonderful ! we must all have slept sound indeed ; but the sentinels ?"

" One I cut down—he gave the alarm ; the other, I fancy, roused part of the garrison, as we met with more resistance in one quarter than we were prepared to expect."

" Altogether I am lost in wonder and amaze, to find myself a prisoner, as if by magic. Surely this is not an enchanted abode ; but I know Franklin is the prime mover of this scheme. I only wish I could call him out, for having thus caught me in a snare."

" Nay, nay, did not you first ensnare him ? and all stratagems, you know—but I will not repeat such old saws ; I can only assure you, that Franklin speaks of you as a brave and generous enemy, and declares himself to be greatly indebted to your

lenity ; this he has told our commander-in-chief ; therefore, if you are not immediately exchanged, you will be put upon your parole."

"That will be ~~the~~ a very means of keeping me secure ; had I been equally politic, I might have remained commander here till *Doomsday*, ere Franklin would have broke his word."

"No doubt you might ; and even now, when you know all, I shall expect to hear you applaud your late prisoner's gallant conduct."

"Gallant conduct !—why surely he has not discovered the retreat of donna Victoria D'Aranza ?"

The British captain smiled, merely saying, "Now let us be going."

"*Sacre bleu !*—I see my way now : what will Ronçevalles say when he learns who taught Franklin the secret issues of this gloomy abode ? Ah ! she thought an Englishman the less dangerous confidante—but how came I to be so easily duped ?"

By this time they had reached the court,

where all the prisoners were now assembled. "So here we are," he gaily exclaimed, "caught like so many rats in a trap;" and the next moment he caught sight of our hero, advancing with his own men, whom he had been to liberate, and whom he had now armed.

Charles instantly advanced towards him, saying, "Yesterday, my kind friend, you expressed a great wish to visit England, and your excellent uncle and I knew of no other mode of gratifying your desire."

"The deuce take you for such kindness," he replied, readily accepting his proffered hand, when pulling him on one side; "so you have really discovered the beautiful fugitive?"

"She made herself and her retreat known to me, and I hope ere long to introduce you, as *my friend*, to her notice. General Roncevalles has been here, she tells me, and you supposed I had scaled the wall."

"Does her spirit haunt this abode, or has she some dealings with the black gentleman?"

"I will enter into every detail when I ~~am more at leisure~~; at present, I must attend to my duty."

Beaumanoir bowed assent; and some of the men were placed as guards over the prisoners, while the rest were preparing for their departure, by collecting what they wished to remove. Our hero, convinced that they had no surprise to fear, hastened to announce their success to donna Victoria, who had retreated to her prison, where she waited, in the most agonizing suspense, the result of what she thought a very rash scheme; and ere our hero appeared, she had felt assured that the whole party had fallen a sacrifice to superior numbers. Had not her trembling limbs refused their office, she would have given her preserver the meeting, who hastened to relieve her anxiety by briefly relating how easily they had overpowered the garrison.

"Of course my father is not among those taken. Sincerely do I wish he was; but I make no doubt you will gain some

authentic intelligence respecting him from captain Beaumanoir. He will merely confirm my worst fears, I am afraid; but could the duke be informed of my safety, it might materially contribute to his comfort."

"He must learn that we have surprised the garrison, and he may guess the result: so now what are you most anxious to have removed, independent of these chests?"

"As the British do not mean to keep possession of the Castle, I should not willingly leave the French a single article of value; these chests contain the most portable articles of plate and jewels; what was in use when the French took up their abode here, remains in the usual repositories, which were sealed, I understood, by the general; let those be broken, and the plate be removed, for the benefit of the little party who accompanied you; there are also some pictures of great value, which my father would redeem at any price; all I mean to claim is contained in this room."

"We came as friends, to assist in re-

moving your goods, not as plunderers and extortioners, to take advantage of your misfortunes; therefore do me the favour to accompany me over the Castle, when you may select what you think most worthy your care. I will return for you in three minutes, but I wish to consult with captain Butler respecting the best mode of conveyance for such heavy baggage."

Captain Butler like our hero, disclaimed all idea of appropriating any part of the valuables to his share; they had fought for glory, not for plunder; but they must now send a couple of men for the horses; as they must take a circuit to cross the river, it would be at least an hour before they would arrive, and the sooner they were upon the move, the better, since though no one had escaped to apprize the French of their success, they might, before they were aware, be surprised in their turn, which, considering the number of prisoners, would be very unpleasant.

Two active men were therefore dispatched back, by the same way they had

entered the Castle, and desired to make the greatest haste. Charles saw them across the river, and secured the secret aperture after them, as that would afford them a retreat, should any more troops arrive. He next, with the assistance of the soldiers, who were told they should be well rewarded for this part of the job, removed all the chests into the court-yard ; and then, in company with donna Victoria, went to collect what was most portable, the two family coaches having been drawn out, to convey all the least heavy baggage and herself to the British camp, and a waggon belonging to the duke was loaded with the largest chests.

Donna Victoria was much more anxious to effect her retreat than to secure her property ; but the most valuable pictures, and a great deal of plate, were, by Charles's orders, placed in and upon one of the coaches ; and the horses being arrived, which, with those of the garrison, and the family stud of horses and mules, now amounted to a hundred and eighty, therefore the

soldiers were allowed to load an extra carriage with what they deemed most useful, particularly wine and spirits, so long as they did not make too free with either: but all being at last ready, they began their march. Our hero, by the captain's desire, accompanied donna Victoria in the coach allotted for her use, since she might else, he observed, be smothered by the boxes and caskets falling upon her; besides, she would want some one to keep up her spirits, after the fatigue and agitation she had undergone.

Not was his kind attention unnecessary, as she was extremely agitated when she took what she apprehended might be a final leave of her parental demesne; she also reflected that she was going among total strangers, since even her protector was merely the acquaintance of a day; still she felt the necessity of keeping up her spirits, and of appearing grateful for Charles's assurances that she had nothing further to dread, and that she might, he made no doubt, easily remove to Lisbon,

where she would be perfectly secure, in the event of the duke's continuing a prisoner; candidly telling her, that he was suspected of being a patriot, and inquiring whether the supposition was founded on fact?

"It is indeed; my father has ever been an advocate for a staunch adherence to monarchy, and the misfortunes and captivity of our princes has rendered him a staunch patriot; but as you may feel curious to know a little more respecting my family, since I have told you my mother was an Englishwoman, I will enter into a few details, which will put you more *au fait* respecting my connexions.

CHAP. II.

"My father was born heir to one of the first titles in Spain, and as he was an only child, he would probably have been spoiled by indulgence, had he not been early left an

orphan, and placed under the care of a rigid tutor and ex-Jesuit, who was not inclined to humour his fancies, and from whom he received an excellent education, which contributed to render him a very domestic man, though, like most other nobles, he went into the army before he became of age: he was to have married a lady of noble birth and large fortune, to whom his family had engaged him in his cradle, but she died upon the eve of the ceremony, which so affected him, that it was long supposed he would never select another bride. To change the scene, he was sent to France with the ambassador going thither. At Paris he became acquainted with some young Englishmen, with whom he visited Italy, Germany, and finally England; and I have heard him say he returned with regret to Spain, where he had no near connexions, and, of course felt himself a sort of isolated being. But his rank led the monarch to notice him very kindly, and ambition became for a time his ruling passion, as he soon obtained the confidence

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of his sovereign, and at thirty he held a high post in the ministry : during the ensuing ten years, he devoted himself to politics, as he saw the storm which was gathering over France, and fain would he have averted it from this now divided country.

“ He had just entered his fortieth year, when political business called him to Cadiz, where he accidentally stumbled upon an Englishman with whom he had made the tour of Europe ; he was a man of rank and family, and had now visited the south of Spain in search of health : they renewed their intimacy, with increased avidity.

“ Lord Melvin was the inmate of a British merchant, who had long been a resident in Spain, a reputed Catholic, and highly respected by the Spanish government. He was therefore known by name to my father, whose happy chance had afforded him the opportunity of becoming personally acquainted with him. As Mr. Levingstone was said to be perfectly *au fait* of the trading and monied interest of the

country, and its relative politics with respect to England, my father was consequently his frequent visitor ; and this merchant's daughter, my late mother, soon came his chief attraction.

“ Lord Melvin returned to England, but my father remained at Cadiz, and continued a daily visitor at my grandfather's : but not to dwell upon what he frequently termed the happiest days of his life, suffice it to say, that not daring to urge the indignation of his brother nobles, nor to offend his sovereign, he privately married my mother, and for some time their union remained a secret, till his increasing favour with his sovereign emboldened him to declare it to the monarch, and my mother was soon after received at court, as duchess of Aranza ; and never did my father repent having united himself to a woman his inferior in point of birth, but, as he often acknowledged, much his superior in many other respects. Her death was the first real sorrow I ever experienced, and my father never recovered the shock it gave him, which, added to the

distracted state of his country, induced him to retire from court, and shut himself up with me and a very small suit, in the castle I have just left; you are acquainted with the recent events, and I need not tell you why I sought refuge in my late miserable abode: but pray can you inform me what is become of Beatrice, my late mother's attendant, since mine, and the few menials who remained after the French had taken possession of the castle?"

"Upon my honour I cannot satisfy you; I saw no females, nor any males, save soldiers."

"They must have made their escape during the bustle, for fear they should be more strictly confined; I can no otherwise account for their non-appearance."

"That is the most probable conjecture; but may I inquire whether Mr. Levingstone still resides in Spain? as he—"

"He would indeed be my protector; but various unpleasant circumstances induced him, even before my mother's death, to seek a retreat in England, and for a time

my father was obliged to forbear corresponding with him ; but this he was afterwards enabled to do through the means of lord Melvin, their joint friend; and the duke did transmit part of his property to my grandfather, in case the worst that he dreaded should happen, and secured the rest of his most valuable effects where you found them. Lord Melvin died last year, and as various family reasons prevented my grandfather from directly addressing the duke, we have not heard from him since—indeed he may also have paid the debt of nature, though he is not much older than my father; but I hope to be able to gain some intelligence of him, through a gentleman now resident in London, as to him alone can I look up for protection, should my father remain in custody.”

Charles thanked her for having brought him, as he said, acquainted with all her connexions; hoped the duke would ere long be equally fortunate with herself; but made no doubt of her soon obtaining intelligence of her grandfather; and had he not

feared to appear curious, he would have asked her some farther questions respecting his departure from Spain,

As they proceeded on their road, donna Victoria appeared to grow more composed, as she greatly feared being pursued by the dreaded general, and forced back again. Charles assured her she had no reason to fear any such sinister conclusion to her adventures, as they were out of all danger from the French, which appeared greatly to cheer her spirits; and as the morning was very fine, she felt infinite benefit from the fresh air, after her long confinement, and certainly appeared to much greater advantage than when she first met our hero's eyes; still he did not think her what might be deemed beautiful; but she had a pleasing though pensive countenance, fine eyes, and certainly was a very fine figure.

By way of beguiling the time, as he did not, as Beaumanoir would probably have done, had he been in the same situation, declare himself her admirer, or wound her

delicacy by far-fetched compliments, he gave her a short abstract of his own story, doing more than justice to his kind protector, colonel Davers, and to his beloved friend Frazer; of his mother he spoke as she deserved; his father he equally mentioned in the most grateful manner, observing, that he had, and was doing more for him than he had any right to expect; nor did he condemn his uncle, declaring that he rejoiced at his having selected another of the family to supply his place, and that he was emancipated from a state of dependence, which was particularly irksome to his disposition.

Donna Victoria made some very judicious and apropos remarks during his narrative, and appeared gratified by his confidential communications.

They were met by a party who had been sent out to reconnoitre, just before they entered ———, where the British headquarters then were. These greeted captain Butler and his men with every mark of ap-

probation, and declared that Franklin was sure to succeed in all his undertakings. Charles returned the compliments of the *officer who spoke, who took the opportunity* to gaze at the fair Iberian, assuring her that he, in common with all his countrymen at ~~the~~, rejoiced at her liberation. She bowed her thanks, and her heightened colour made her appear to greater advantage than Charles had yet seen her.

At the entrance of the town, they were greeted by colonel Davers, who had been deputed by the general to escort the duke of Aranza's daughter to the most convenient habitation the crowded state of the place would admit of for her; it consisted in a small suit of apartments, in the house of a decent, if not high-born family, with whom the colonel also lodged, but in a detached wing of the building, to which was annexed a garden, which must prove a recommendation to the young lady. This colonel Davers politely recapitulated to donna Victoria, and then preceded the carriages to her proposed abode,

where he stood ready to hand her out; and had she been his daughter, he could not have welcomed her more cordially, leading her in, *after desiring Charles would see all her baggage brought in and placed under her own eye.*

Having shown her into a handsome sitting-room, he sincerely congratulated her upon having made herself known to his young relative, who had warmly interested their general in her behalf, and who had proved himself, as he always did, worthy of the confidence which had been placed in his representations.

Donna Victoria spoke of him as she thought, of course her report was highly favourable: and in as short a time as the nature of the case would admit, the smaller boxes and caskets were deposited in her own room, and the larger chests and pictures in an adjoining anti-room, which having locked, Charles brought her the key, and again received her thanks. "They were a very poor return," she observed, "for the favours he had done her; she

only hoped that he who alone can read all hearts, would double his blessings upon the head of her preserver, and protect him, as she had been, in the hour of need."

Colonel Davers now advised her to take some comfortable refreshment, and retire to bed; she must be greatly in need of repose; the wife of the owner of the house would attend upon her. She was a staunch patriot, and, he believed, a very worthy woman, therefore at present she could not be more eligibly situated; in the evening, general lord — meant to offer her his congratulations; he should introduce him; and he supposed his young relative, turning to Charles, would seize the same opportunity to pay his respects to her. She made a polite reply; and having summoned the hostess to receive her fair lodger's orders, the gentlemen departed.

Colonel Davers expressed himself much pleased with the young Iberian, during their walk to the general's, to whom Charles briefly related the short abstract of her story she had given him. He hoped she

would find a protector in her grandfather, since he much doubted the duke D'Aranza ever being liberated ; his being known to have married an Englishwoman would increase his crimes in the eyes of his persecutors. Charles then mentioned the chests, &c. which they had removed, and donna Victoria's offer to give the unpacked plate and pictures to her deliverers.

“ She was right to make the proposal, and Butler and you were still more right in refusing to take advantage of her situation. She may, poor thing, be greatly deceived in her estimate of her property ; silver plate is very bulky, but of little comparative value when sold for its weight ; the pictures may prove the greater treasure ; and she may, by your account, have secured some of the golden ornaments of their chapel ; possibly she has also some jewels ; but in my opinion, her greatest dependence rests upon the money she says her father transmitted to England, that is, admitting she holds the securities, and her grandfather is living.”

Charles perfectly agreed with his lordship, and was not sorry when he desired him to devote the day to repose. Colonel Dayers gaily told him he must not yet resign his post of protector to donna Victoria, as he had appointed him to assist in guarding her, so had had a small room adjoining his own prepared for him, and that part of his baggage which had not fallen into the hands of the French had been removed thither.

We shall therefore leave our hero and donna Victoria to recruit their spirits, while we return to the Castle D'Aranza, as our readers may wish to learn how general Roncevalles bore the disappointment he was doomed to experience.

CHAP. III.

It had never been this general of division's intention to retain possession of the Castle

of Aranza, as the so doing would have been very inimical to the plan he had been ordered to pursue; he had therefore, when informed that Franklin had made his escape, begun to suspect that the English were better acquainted with the place than himself, and that they would, if it suited them, return in sufficient force to surprise the little garrison it contained. He had no idea donna Victoria was concealed within the walls, having, as he thought, sounded every floor and every pannel likely to conceal a secret issue: that many Spanish castles had such, he felt assured; but the Castle D'Aranza was not amongst the number; and as he was still more *au fait* of the family annals than even our hero, he naturally presumed donna Victoria was either lying *perdue* in the environs, or that she was upon her road to Lisbon, preparatory to her embarkation for England, whither he presumed the duke had sent his most valuable effects.

This he resolved, if possible, to ascertain when he returned to his head-quarters,

after having learnt the escape of our hero, which had induced him to suppose the duke was by some means or other in a league with the English, and that they had before been privately received within the Castle.

To discover whether these conjectures were founded in fact, he resolved to alter his mode of behaviour to his prisoner, who had been doomed to expiate the crime of being a patriot, even admitting his daughter should be discovered; but for the present, the general thought he would assail him with affected kindness; and he certainly acted his part with great skill, affecting the greatest pity for his noble prisoner, and deeply regretting his having incurred the suspicions of the present ruler of Spain; unfortunately, some papers which had been found in his possession had increased the distrust of those in power, and he was unwillingly compelled to keep a stricter guard over him than heretofore.

The duke was not the dupe of his plausible foe, yet he thought it most politic to

appear so ; and even declared himself very fortunate in having fallen into the hands of a friend, since few people were inclined to favour the unfortunate.

De Roncevalles triumphed in imagination, and continued to exaggerate the danger of his prisoner, till having, as he thought, sufficiently alarmed him, and convinced him of his ability to befriend him, he thus proceeded :

“ I commend the precaution you took to remove *donna Victoria*, when you foresaw that we might find it necessary to take possession of your abode, nor should I wish you even now to discover her retreat to a person less inclined to befriend you than myself ; but I have the will and the power to extricate you from your present very unpleasant situation, if you will give me your daughter in marriage, and settle your estates upon her and her issue, at your demise. As the father of my wife, your life and property will be secured, since I will become answerable for your future conduct.”

The duke had expected some such proof

of his *sincere regard*, therefore was by no means surprised at his *modest proposal*, and he was also convinced that, admitting he were base enough to sacrifice his only child to his own safety, he should not secure it by so doing; yet not chusing to appear to suspect the kind intentions of his conqueror, he thought it most advisable not to declare his abhorrence of him; he therefore assured him that he did not himself know where his daughter then was, much less whether she would be inclined to comply with his generous proposals; and he had resolved never to bias her inclinations with respect to marriage—"But you have told me that my small household remains in *statu quo*, therefore from Beatrice, my daughter's attendant, I may obtain some information respecting her mistress. I have no other means of complying with your request, nor shall I enter into any other details: if, as I make no doubt, you are sincere in your wish to serve me, send for this woman, and trust to my honour for making your proposals known

to my daughter, should I, through her means, be able to trace her retreat."

The general, who made no doubt but *dame Beatrice was in all her master's secrets*, though she had sworn to him she could not direct him to donna Victoria, resolved to return to Aranza the next morning, and to terrify her into confessing all he wanted to learn; when, if he succeeded in securing the heiress, the sooner she came into possession of her property the better.

The duke was not aware of the extent of the villainous projects; he had with truth declared that he did not exactly know where his daughter was, since he only knew that she had sought a retreat in the strong room, and she might ere this have escaped from thence, as he had urged her to seek the protection of the British, should he be removed, as he feared; besides, dare he acquaint Beatrice, now an elderly weak woman, with the secret which had hitherto secured his child's safety, even admitting she might prove trust-worthy, she would be so strictly watched, that it must be discover-

ed to the general, and thus his child would be at his mercy. He might wish to marry her, since he could no otherwise secure her property; and could he, without endangering her safety, make her acquainted with his intentions? he felt half inclined to do so, and trust entirely to her filial affection; as, like Claudio, he was inclined to exclaim-

“The weariest and most loathed worldly life,
That age, ache, penury, imprisonment,
Can lay on nature, is a paradise,
To what we fear of death.”

But while he was thus undecided how to proceed, general Roncevalles, attended by his usual escort, proceeded to his Castle. The reader may judge of his amaze upon perceiving the great gate open, and on finding the court deserted, every door open, and both carriages and horses of all descriptions gone! Hastily dismounting, something like the truth having flashed across his mind, he vowed vengeance against the wretched duke, till a moment's reflec-

tion convinced him that he could not have planned or contrived what must have been effected by the enemy, who had of course been assisted by the treacherous donna Victoria; yes, she had escaped; that the duke had half acknowledged; and being half an Englishwoman, she had escaped to her mother's countrymen, who had probably been bribed by some of her British relatives (who, if report was to be believed, were people of immense property) to assist her in ransacking the Castle: thus judging of others by his own feelings, which rendered him much more eager in search of plunder than in search of glory. Vowing vengeance against the donna, the duke, and the British nation, he rushed into the house; every door was open, and, as he expected, every article of value was removed; when having reached the grand staircase, he saw two women, one of whom he recognised to be Beatrice, whom he had resolved to threaten into confessing where donna Victoria was concealed; she was evidently in tears, and was assisted by

the other servant bringing down a bundle. They were not aware of his approach till he demanded in an authoritative voice "what they were about?" Beatrice slacked her hold, as did her companion, and the bundle rolled down to his feet; he repeated his demand in a louder tone, when Beatrice sobbed out, "We were going to remove our clothes, sir; since the Castle having been stripped, we had no hopes of the family returning thither."

"Who supposed you had?—but pray, madam Beatrice, where is your young lady?"

"I am sure, sir, I do not know which road the soldiers took, with whom she went away, nor how they got into the Castle."

"That I shall make you prove, since hitherto you have denied that donna Victoria was concealed in the Castle, yet now you acknowledge she went from hence with a party of the enemy."

"I can safely swear, sir, that I never saw donna Victoria after the duke was carried away a prisoner; she might, for aught I know, have returned with the English, who over-

powered the garrison, and stripped the Castle. God knows, I am at a loss to tell who are friends and who are enemies."

The general stormed and raved as if he had been unprepared for this confirmation of all his worst surmises; threatened to kill both the women—accused them of having deceived him—and seemed, as he really was, outrageous; till having vented his fury, he threatened the poor wenches with instant death, if they did not enter into every detail he was anxious to hear.

Beatrice, who was by no means the weak character her master supposed, was much the least intimidated of the two; she therefore, in a few words, related, "that she had been disturbed at a very early hour by the clashing of arms in the court; unable to account for the seeming bustle, fear for her personal safety at first induced her to remain very quiet, till curiosity, as the fighting seemed to have ceased, led her to her window; the night had been very stormy, and was still too dark to admit of her seeing all that was going forward, but

the court appeared full of soldiers, some of whom had lights, and a general bustle prevailed; carriages were loaded with different articles, and finally, donna Victoria departed in a coach with an English officer, accompanied by many more, and the garrison, who appeared to be prisoners."

This certainly correct, though rather incoherent account, merely increased the general's rage; he asked fifty questions in a breath, and soon found that fear alone had restrained these women from also claiming the protection of the British; but they were not aware they came as friends, till they saw their mistress depart under their protection; and they had since been collecting their clothes previous to making their escape, as they with justice feared the return of general Roncevalles, who was, if possible, more vexed at being thus defrauded of those treasures he fancied so secure, particularly the pictures, of which he well knew the value, and which he intended to have sent to Paris as trophies of his victories.

Having convinced himself that merely

the massive old-fashioned furniture remained within the walls, he returned, still attended by Beatrice and the other servant, whom he had obliged to precede him into the interior apartments, to the hall, when he commanded them to show his military attendants where the family store of wood was kept, and then obliged them to assist in making a pile of billets and faggots at the foot of the grand staircase; having seen it arranged to his mind, he commanded Beatrice, because he thought she would feel most mortified, "to set it on fire!"

She turned pale, and entreated to be spared the task in very moving terms; while her companion, who trembled every joint, stood ready with a light and a wisp of straw.

"You refuse to obey me, do you, you infernal old hag? but I will either place you upon the top of the pile, and set light to it myself; or you shall save me the trouble."

Of course she became subservient to his

will; and in less than half an hour the Castle was in flames, which promised to level it with the ground.

Having thus vented his rage upon the building, the general sullenly remounted his horse, and returned to head-quarters; meditating as he rode along respecting the fate of the owner of the domain. He firmly believed, that to save his life he would readily have given him his daughter; but it seemed next to impossible, as matters had turned out, to obtain any power over her; besides, admitting, at the duke's request, she was restored to his protection, the British would not return the valuables they had seized; to them she was no doubt indebted for their intercession; and he might seize the lands without marrying the treacherous girl; yet he felt that he liked her person, and he would have bestowed half the estates upon any one who would place her once more within his reach; at last he resolved to be perfectly candid with the duke, rather hoping to discover from his looks or words, whether he was at all

aware of his daughter's having sought the protection of the English ; he was also very anxious to learn whether any of his property was concealed in or about the Castle, though it seemed most probable the young fugitive had taken care to secure all she could remove.

Having thus decided, he paid his prisoner an immediate visit, and certainly came rather abruptly to the point, as he exclaimed, the moment he entered, " Your daughter is in the hands of our enemies, and your Castle is in ruins."

" In the hands of the British ! is Victoria in the hands of the English ?" cried the duke, whose countenance certainly did not evince much sorrow ; but hastily recalling his presence of mind. " And have they destroyed my Castle ? They—but to answer what purpose ?"

" To oblige you, I suppose, since you seem rejoiced at their having your daughter in their power ; but you have only confirmed what I have long suspected, that you were friendly to their cause."

“ I was never the friend of the enemies of my country, general.”

“ No, you are a patriot, and consider the French as your enemies.”

“ I only wished to remain neuter, and to end my days in peace ; but I acknowledge I rejoiced to hear my child was living, as she might, I feared, have perished in a dungeon.”

“ Aye, she was, as I supposed, concealed within the Castle—nay, you need not hesitate to acknowledge the fact, since I was told she departed with the British by Beatrice, your confidante, who, to display her joy, actually made a bonfire of your Castle, whether by her lady’s orders, I cannot inform you.”

“ You are certainly diverting yourself at my expence, general ?”

“ I am in no laughing humour, I assure you, and I have only stated facts ; so you may as well tell me where your daughter was concealed.”

“ You are to the full as likely to know as myself, since you have been upon the

spot, and seem to have made yourself acquainted with every particular."

"I do not chuse to be thus put off, therefore come to the point at once, or—"

"I despise your threats, general. I was, and am still, inclined, if she is not averse to your proposals, to bestow my daughter upon you; more I will not say, nor shall you make me the mere tool of your convenience."

The general no longer wishing to conciliate his prisoner, gave a free loose to his long-stifled rage; and soon convinced the duke that it was a very fortunate thing for his daughter she had escaped such a connection, and that even had he married her, he would probably have fallen a sacrifice to his avarice; and as it is said the worst certainty is preferable to suspense, he felt much more inclined to welcome death, now his fate appeared inevitable, than while he flattered himself with hopes of life; therefore the moment he was alone, he fell upon his knees, to return thanks to Heaven for his daughter's safety, as he

made no doubt of her having secured more than sufficient to place her in affluence; and should her grandfather be still living, with him she would find an asylum, and in him an affectionate protector. He could have wished to have been informed of the particulars of her escape; but as that did not seem likely, he resolved to devote the few remaining weeks or days he might be suffered to languish in confinement, to preparing himself to die.

CHAP. IV.

DONNA Victoria was enabled, owing to her recent fatigue, to enjoy a few hours comfortable repose; but when she woke, her thoughts, as usual, reverted to her father; yet she felt consoled by the idea that she had merely followed his orders, in having placed herself under the protection of the British. They seemed to treat her with the

respect due to her sex ; while had she fallen into the power of Roncevalles, she should have been insulted, if not ill-treated, as she had overheard enough of his discourse to Beaumanoir to lead her to expect no mercy at his hands ; most grateful, therefore, did she feel towards Heaven and our hero. Colonel Davers was a very respectable man, and she rejoiced at being under his immediate protection ; but as she expected to see the general in whose praise fame spoke so loudly, she selected a more elegant dress from among the clothes she had brought away, and having completed her toilette, repaired to the sitting-room appropriated to her use.

The woman of the house was extremely attentive, placed a variety of refreshments before her, and rejoiced to see her make up for her late scanty fare ; from this woman donna Victoria heard a very gratifying account of colonel Davers ; and to her she lamented having left her faithful Beatrice behind her ; entering into several details respecting the French having seized

her father's Castle, which greatly interested her landlady; and who assured her she might easily (as she wished for an English attendant,) procure one of the soldier's wives to wait upon her; nay, she believed that the woman who washed for colonel Davers had lost her husband in a recent engagement; she would doubtless rejoice at being taken into her service.

Donna Victoria requested she would make the arrangement; and was listening with still more interest to her account of lieutenant Franklin, who had, she understood, been an active benefactor of her intended servant, nor was she sorry to hear he also lodged under the same roof, when general lord — was announced, and entered, accompanied by colonel Davers and our hero.

The general paid his compliments in the most flattering manner, assuring her that he rejoiced at her emancipation from her late captivity; adding, "much as we all regretted the detention of our general favourite, Franklin, we all now join in agree-

ing that much good has arisen from his having been surprised ; and had you been allowed to seek a protector among us all, your choice could not have fallen upon one more likely to perform impossibilities in your service, nor less likely to fancy you at all indebted to his spirit of chivalry."

Donna Victoria's reply convinced the general and the colonel that she was fully sensible of her obligations to our hero, who gaily entreated that she would enable him to deserve her praises, by continuing to employ him in her service.

She bowed her thanks, and then, at the general's desire, entered into a short detail respecting her father, general De Roncavalles, &c. which convinced the brave hero she addressed that the duke D'Aranza, like some other noble Spaniards, had wished to remain unnoticed till he saw whether the patriots or the French were most likely to succeed, when he meant to have joined the conquerors, and have attributed his inaction and supineness to ill health and po-

licity. His daughter appeared to possess a much stronger mind, and to be, as she declared, more than half an Englishwoman.

He readily allowed her claim to the appellation of countrywoman; and agreed that it might be better she should remain where she was, instead, as he meant to advise, proceeding to Lisbon, till she learnt what was likely to be the fate of her father. He supposed, he told her, he would be removed, perhaps, into France, for fear he should make his escape and join her; promising to take the most likely means to procure some intelligence of his situation, and to inform him of her safety.

He then took his leave, much impressed in favour of the young Iberian. As she had repeatedly entreated he would allow her to reward the services of the soldiers he had sent to her relief—"I will present them with what I think necessary, in your name, my young friend; and you shall at some future period repay me what I may advance, since remember the men went upon mine and their country's service, and

have been rewarded by their success; a much smaller number could have sufficed to remove you and your chests in safety; we entered this country to protect and assist, not to plunder the Spaniards." He then departed, leaving the colonel and our hero with the young lady, who declared that were she but assured that her father would be removed to France, and merely, like their monarch, be kept in captivity, she should feel comparatively happy to what she had done of late; again deploring her not having thought of Beatrice when she left the Castle, since to have had her about her would have greatly increased her comforts.

This the gentlemen readily believed; but as it grew late, they wished her a good-night; the colonel merely enforcing the general's hint respecting her property, which he thought had better, for the present, remain in the chests; offering to supply her with any sum she might require for her present exigencies.

She was sensible of the kindness of his

intention; but assured him she was very amply provided with current cash, since the duke thought she might be obliged to pay pretty dearly for either safety or protection.

The colonel agreed that she might have fallen into more mercenary hands, and departed with his young favourite.

Having reached their own apartment—"Well, what say you to the young lady, colonel?" asked our hero.

"She improves upon acquaintance, Charles, as she does not seem to be deficient in point of common sense. Her father has, and will, or I am mistaken, pay pretty dearly for not having sought the protection of the British. He appears to be a weak manœuvrer, whose plans were so shallow, a child might have seen through them; if such were the ministers and politics of Spain, no wonder she is so divided in her councils; surely, as his late wife has or had relations in England, to them he ought long since have consigned both his daughter and his property; but by wishing to

retain both that and his estates, he has lost all, as, depend upon it, he will *die* in prison, and general Roncevalles will secure his estates, if not his title."

This Charles thought very probable; but as the colonel had letters to write, he also sat down to address Frazer and lady Franklin; to the former, he entered into various minute details respecting donna Victoria, his recent captivity, &c.; to his mother he more briefly related his recent adventures, making very light to both of his own exertions, and requesting to hear as speedily as possible from each of them.

But unawares to himself, he felt an increasing interest in the concerns of donna Victoria; and when he retired for the night, he formed a variety of plans, all tending to her comfort and gratification. In consequence of these his waking dreams, he sought out a Spaniard whom he knew to be attached to the Guerillas, who were in the pay of the commander-in-chief, and proposed to him to go in search of donna Beatrice, who must, he supposed, have sought

a refuge in or near the Castle of Aranza, giving the man to understand that he should be rewarded in proportion to his zeal and success, as he made no doubt of donna Victoria's amply renumeration his services, should he succeed in bringing away her attendant; if not, he meant to pay him for his time, and not to mention having employed him.

Meanwhile, the soldier's wife had gladly accepted the situation proposed to her by the woman of the house, and had entered upon her new duties much to the comfort and satisfaction of donna Victoria, to whom she related so many traits of Charles's kindness and humanity, towards his men and their wives, that she felt her regard for him greatly increased, as he appeared to be always anxious to mitigate the horrors of war, and to meliorate the condition of those under his command, and she rejoiced to learn that he was adored by his men.

"Every body regretted his being surprised by those vile French," proceeded Sarah May; "one would have thought that

half the officers had lost their brother, or their best friend, they all seemed so anxious about him; and I dare say they would have rescued him at every risk, if God and your ladyship had not been beforehand with them. My poor husband was killed under his eyes, and doing his duty; and he broke the news to me himself, and has been my best friend ever since. I am sure I pray for him every day."

Donna Victoria thought she was still more obliged to him, and in this she felt confirmed, when, the third day after her arrival at —, he presented himself at her door, accompanied by donna Beatrice, whom the guerilla had discovered concealed in the village adjoining the Castle, and brought with him to our hero, who now acknowledged having sent him in search of the good woman, as he was well assured that donna Victoria would amply reward his exertions. This she thankfully did, and rendered the man such a staunch friend, that he volunteered to convey a message

to her father, and to bring her one in return ; she eagerly accepted his offer, promising to double her present donation when he returned :

Nor was she less grateful towards Charles, upon whom she absolutely forced a diamond ring of great value. " It is my own," said she, " though intended for a gentleman ; but it was given me on one of my birthdays by my English grandfather, who was a dealer in jewels, for me to bestow upon any friend ; and I am sure he would approve of my offering it to your acceptance."

In vain did Charles endeavour to excuse himself from availing himself of her generosity, under the plea that a soldier's baggage was frequently lost, therefore she might at last be only enriching the French. But she seemed so hurt at what she styled his " proud spirit," that he finally accepted her gift, presuming it had been intended for her future husband by the original donor, and thinking that he might perhaps, were he base enough to take advantage of

her situation, make himself a sufficient interest in her heart to obtain that title, to her esteem, gratitude, and obedience.

CHAP. V.

FROM Beatrice donna Victoria learnt what had occurred since her departure from the abode of her ancestors, and was horror-struck when she heard how cruelly general Roncevalles had finally gratified his revenge; nay, from Beatrice's account, she felt assured that she ~~had~~ had a very narrow escape since the general had repeatedly sworn that he only wished she had been still concealed about the building, as he should then have punished both father and daughter for their treachery; and she was also convinced, that had she fallen into his power, miserable indeed would have been her destiny, even had she been base enough to have accepted of his protection; and

her father she now scarcely doubted would fall a victim to his brutal sanguinary disposition.

Colonel Davers could not give her hopes which he did not entertain, but he endeavoured to prepare her mind against the worst ; and, as he fully expected, when the guerilla returned, he informed our hero that the duke had been tried the day after his daughter had left the Castle—found guilty—sentence of death was pronounced against him—and his estates declared the property of the vigilant Roncevalles, as a reward for his zeal in the cause of justice. He had not, however, suffered the sentence of the law, having, it was reported, died in prison ; it was therefore given out to amuse the people that he would have been pardoned, and merely confined till a peace took place ; while he (the guerilla) felt assured that he had been purposely murdered, as they dared not have brought such a man to the scaffold.

This melancholy intelligence, though softened down as much as possible, oc-

occasioned donna Victoria a most dreadful shock, and a serious fit of illness; since, though she could not accuse herself of having occasioned her father's death, she feared her escape had increased the fury of his enemies. Beatrice proved, however, an able consoler; and as donna Victoria believed her father had died (though perhaps of grief) a natural death, after a time she grew more reconciled to her fate, and consulted with her attendant respecting her future plans. Beatrice, who did not like the notion of visiting England, which she thought a country of heretics, advised their removing to Lisbon, where they might for the present board in a convent, from whence donna Victoria might write to her grandfather; and if he was living, he would probably answer her letter in person, and take her under his protection.

The fair Spaniard said she would consider of the matter; and in consequence seized the first opportunity to consult with colonel Davers respecting her future plans. He agreed it would be very desirable that

that she should remove from the immediate seat of war; but she could not undertake such a journey merely attended by two females, and any male servants she might engage, since the supposed value of her baggage might induce those who ought to be her protectors to become her plunderers, if no worse befel her. Still, as it was reported that the French forces were daily increasing; ere any decisive action took place, he made no doubt of the general's sending a detachment to Lisbon; and she might avail herself of the opportunity to remove under their protection. "Had she any acquaintance at Lisbon?"

"Her father had been in habits of intimacy with an Irish merchant, who resided there, and had through his medium transmitted some of his property to England."

"Then she had better write to this gentleman, who might either receive her into his own family, or secure her apartments in some convent."

Donna Victoria resolved to follow his advice, though she was by no means sorry

to find it would be imprudent to leave — without an escort, as Sarah May had greatly increased her prepossession in favour of our hero, and her increasing intimacy with him convinced her that he was a man of the most ingenuous mind, and the most elegant manners; from ~~Sarah~~ she learnt that the goodness of his heart and the sweetness of his temper had rendered him the friend of all his brother officers, and the idol of the soldiers, who appeared invincible under his command. From the general she heard, that though brave even to faulty rashness, he was no less remarkable for humanity and presence of mind. She had therefore, ere she was aware of the circumstance, surrendered her heart into his keeping; still she dare not flatter herself with having inspired him with a similar passion, as he merely treated her with the sort of kind civility of an affectionate brother, and if he ever suffered his eyes to speak a more tender language, he kept his tongue strictly within bounds. He might, she truly conceived, think that

her rank and supposed fortune placed her too much above him ; but she was aware of a blot in her 'scutcheon, which, in her opinion, reduced her almost beneath his level, and she longed for an opportunity to mention a circumstance her father had most anxiously wished to conceal.

As a preparatory step to this discovery, she wrote in very guarded terms to Mr. Donaghue, the Lisbon merchant, and inclosed a letter for her grandfather, which she requested that gentleman would forward, as she did not feel inclined to inform him that she had secured the greater part, if not the whole of her father's personal property, since she wished to discover whether friendship or self-interest had led to his former profuse offers of service and protection ; she requested he would direct his answer inclosed to colonel Davers, and entreated it might not be long delayed, as it would, in a great measure, settle her future plans.

Colonel Davers readily undertook to forward her epistle ; but having discovered the real bent of her inclinations, and being

convinced that our hero was merely withheld by motives of delicacy from making her an offer of his hand and heart, and from a dread of appearing to be guided by interested views, he seriously advised him to take her for *better and worse*; adding, "She loves you, you must have seen, and I do not think you have seen her with indifference; she appears to possess enough to insure you a competence, and a sufficiency for herself in the event of your falling during the present contest: whether she will ever recover the duke's landed property, appears rather problematical, as he can hardly be ranked among the patriots: but she says she has money in England, and without your assistance she may be unable to make good her claim to it. Donaghue, to whom she has written, is not much respected among the gentlemen of the factory. If her grandfather is or was a man of character and substance, he must have left executors; but these, in conjunction with the Irishman, may defraud the poor orphan; therefore I think you will

be doing a real act of charity, by giving her a legal right to your name."

Charles agreed that he felt more than a brotherly regard for their lovely *protegée*, yet he could not bear the idea of appearing to avail himself of their peculiar situation, since he feared she was much richer than was supposed; and her grandfather might, should he be living, have very different views for her; and what had he to offer in return but a mere competency, as he merely possessed his commission—the favour of his general—the protection of his colonel—and was an absolute dependant upon his father's will, respecting the allowance he now made him? therefore to what but interested motives could she ascribe his offers, else he would willingly "take her to his heart for ever;" and, he would add,

"The dear companion of his future days;
Whatever Providence allots for each,
Be that the common portion of us both:"

nay, he would readily share all her griefs, and lighten all her troubles.

"But if good Heaven had any joy in store,
Let that be all her own."

"She could desire no more," said the colonel, "and I am sure *uncle Franklin* would say you do not deserve to be fortunate, you make so little use of the goddess's favours."

"Victoria's being a foreigner would prejudice him against her, and it may have the same effect upon my father and mother; besides, my dear sir, ought I to marry, situated as I am, since a moment may suffice to render her a widow as well as an orphan? and she may only have incurred her grandfather's displeasure, and the dislike of my family, without having insured to herself a protector."

"Then you take it for granted you are to fall during the next battle, and both the general and I are also to swell the list of the slain? so pray wind up the tragedy, by supposing the French conquerors."

"Now you are laughing at me, colonel; but I will reflect upon your advice; I wish

her, at all events, to hear from Lisbon before I open my mind to her, as her grandfather may have written to this Donaghue; and I should place her in a very awkward predicament, if I prevented her from agreeing to the old gentleman's plans. If she really loves me, we may meet again in England."

"Just now, you were not inclined to look into futurity; however, it may be as prudent to wait till she hears from Lisbon; but I shall feel very much disposed to quarrel with you, if you suffer any silly notions of delicacy and disinterestedness to induce you to render this fair Iberian miserable."

Charles promised to take his advice into serious consideration, and thus they separated, to attend to their respective military duties; the colonel feeling more than ever prepossessed in favour of our hero, for not appearing anxious to secure the hoards of the duke of Aranza.

CHAP. VI.

OUR hero's uncle was still undecided how to dispose of his property, when he learnt from the papers that his once-favourite nephew had rescued the daughter of a Spanish grandee, and had led to the seizure of a party of the enemy: the advantages thus obtained were, as usual, greatly magnified to a victory of importance in some papers, and diminished to a mere trifling skirmish in some others. Donna Victoria's family and fortune were equally the boast of one writer, and treated with contempt by the other side; by some she was reported to have made her escape with jewels enough to have redecorated the *Sancta Casa* in all its former splendor; while the opposition papers declared, she had merely secured a few old family portraits, and some chests of old plate, much more bulky than valuable; as these editors had

learnt, from the best authority, that the late duke had expended immense sums in bribing the French to forbearance. Mr. Franklin was no friend to government, as he continually grumbled at the income tax; therefore he placed most faith in the opposition papers; and as the general's dispatches certainly tallied with their representation of the affair, Franklin was merely admired for his gallantry, without exciting the envy of those who thought it not improbable he might marry the fair Spaniard.

Lady Franklin ever alive to the interest of her children, sent our hero's own very short account of the circumstance to her brother-in-law, through the medium of her son John, with whose improvident expenditure she was wholly unacquainted; and as he was as often refused admittance as received by his uncle, he eagerly availed himself of the opportunity to pay him a visit; and having abridged the usual compliments, he presented him with his mother's letter and the inclosure from Charles:

The old man received them in silence,

but immediately read our hero's. "Ah, I thought the ministerial papers had made mountains of mole-hills," he cried. "The girl seems to have been an artful hussey; tutored by her father, I suppose, to throw herself into the hands of the British; that they might keep in with both parties; plate, forsooth!—the chests may contain stones, for aught the boy knows; but he does not dwell upon the circumstance—yes, yes, it is likely the French would have left much for such an urchin as him to carry off; however, his Quixotism has gained him the applause of his leaders—so if *fame* can provide for his necessities, he is not likely to come to want. In his place, I should have preferred more substantial food; but if he is satisfied, I am." He then read lady Franklin's letter, in which she touched very slightly upon what our hero had written; merely observing, as he had done, "that his Quixotism might prove of eventual advantage to him, since it was likely to lead him to promotion." "Your mother is no fool," rejoined the old man. "She is not

elated by Charles's great success; I only wish he may not pay for his rashness ere long; however, as his sword must now carve his fortune, I do not blame him for displaying his bravery."

"He has left himself no other resource, sir," observed the sapient John; "had I been distinguished early in life by your favour—"

"Why, like him, you might have played the fool. I dare say you are not more immaculate than he was; and I can tell you another thing, you have not half his spirit—he takes after me; and I should not be surprised were I to see him a general before I die."

John was at a loss what to say, but not chusing to join in his brother's praises, nor yet to venture to speak against him, prudently changed the subject. "My father is going to Bath, my mother writes; he has been very unwell of late."

"He lives too freely, and he may be conscience-stricken, as, like you, John, he was a very unkind brother."

John vainly endeavoured to remove this notion, by declaring, "that no one gloried more than he did in his brother's success; all he meant to insinuate was—"

"That he is undeserving of my money," interrupted his uncle, "and that you are very anxious to secure it, John; but, like your father, you are no politician—so thank you for your information; but I have no time to listen to you any longer, as I expect a person upon business."

John made his bow, more vexed than he had ever yet been with this capricious miser, "who was never in the same mind," he wrote his mother, "for two days together, and more difficult than ever to please;" concluding, as he did most of his epistles, by complaints of the dearness of living, and the difficulty he experienced to appear like a gentleman upon the income arising from his place. Now as sir George had given him two hundred pounds when he left home, and his salary was very regularly paid, she paid no attention to these hints, merely regretting he did not possess more of Charles's

prudence and spirit, which she gave him to understand in her answer.

Mr. Franklin really expected a person upon business when he dismissed him, as lady Susan Delany, who was not yet married, though she had been for some time her own mistress, had applied to him, through the means of her brother, to advance her twelve thousand pounds, upon the estate she had taken possession of when she became of age; having (but this Mr. Franklin did not know) already bestowed all her ready money upon the earl; and it was to minister to his wants that she required this further supply, as he could not raise another shilling upon his own credit, he was in so bad a state of health. The wary counsellor had required three days to reflect upon the proposal, though he was eager to snap at the security; but he made it a rule to keep people in suspense.

The estate in question was delightfully situated in Hertfordshire, within two miles of Watford, and about twelve from London; the rent-roll was a net three thousand

a-year, in which the house, an elegant modern building, and the park, were not included; he would therefore willingly have advanced double the sum, since he foresaw it would inevitably be sold at the death of the earl, as lady Susan would not be able to reside there, and pay him the interest of his money; besides, he had only to call it in at a short notice, to make his own terms with her. The family estates were all dipped to nearly their value, and the earl's personals would amount to a mere trifle. He was therefore already, in imagination, in possession of this beautiful villa, which he hoped to dispose of to great advantage; since, though he grew, every succeeding day, more and more undecided respecting the final disposal of his property, he became every succeeding hour more anxious to increase his hoards; and certainly he took every advantage, when applied to for a loan, that the law authorized, nay, sometimes he barely steered clear of the statute against usury.

CHAP. VII.

WHEN Mr. Donaghue received donna Victoria's letter, he had already heard that the Castle of Aranza was levelled with the ground, that the duke had died in prison, and that his estates were become the property of a French general; and as donna Victoriadid not mention having saved even a change of clothes, and as he, like Mr. Franklin, (being unacquainted with the strong room, and secret passages of the mansion,) made no doubt of the French having gutted the building, before it fell into the hands of the British he did not wish to encourage the young lady to come to Lisbon; though he knew that he had remitted money enough to England, to support her in affluence, and though he also knew her grandfather would thankfully repay him every advance he might make for her use. But be it known to our readers, that this worthy man having very lately received

some money for the duke, from a Portuguese noble now in the Brazils, which his grace had desired him to transmit to England, he having delayed to execute his orders under various pretences, and having also withheld his last letters to his father-in-law, now chose to appropriate this (in comparison, trifling sum, as it did not exceed six thousand pounds,) to his own use and benefit; and if donna Victoria remained with the British forces, a thousand incidents might occur to prevent her ever reaching England; at all events, he determined not to facilitate her so doing; he therefore suppressed her letter to her grandfather, and replied as briefly as possible to the one she addressed to him, expressing his regret for her misfortunes, and lamenting that he could not receive her as she seemed to wish, nor secure her apartments in a convent, as he was upon the point of sailing to the Brazils, to accelerate by his presence what he hoped would prove a fortunate speculation; and thus concluded—"I have sent the letter you

inclosed to me to England, and have added a few lines from myself ; but as I have not heard from that quarter for some months, I begin to fear I never may again: wishing you health and happiness, and that your present troubles may soon blow over,

“ I remain, madam, &c.

“ PATRICK DONAGHUE.”

This very *satisfactory* epistle came, as had been desired, inclosed to colonel Davers, who gave it our hero to present to donna Victoria ; desiring him “ to make the most of so excellent an opportunity to declare his regard for their *protégée*.”

“ But may not this letter open very different views to her, colonel ? Mr. Donaghue has answered hers so immediately, I think he is coming in search of her ; and as he is, or has been, the duke’s and grandfather’s agent, he may have been in expectation of her.”

“ Don’t waste your time nor your breath in useless conjectures, but hasten to donna Victoria, as she must be anxious to hear from Lisbon.”

Charles did as he desired, and certainly fancied he was a very welcome guest; he presented the letter and the blank cover in which it came inclosed, "hoping that he was the bearer of pleasing intelligence."

"I often feel inclined to fancy you are my good genius, so I place great faith in your prognostics; if this letter brings me news of my grandfather, it will make me very happy; as to what Mr. Donaghue may say from himself, that I shall consider as mere words of course, and not as I did your professions, when we separated in the pavilion at Aranza."

"You flatter me by recollecting any circumstance relative to our first meeting; but pray read your letter; colonel Davers is almost as anxious as myself to learn what influence it may have respecting your future plans."

She broke the seal, and read the contents to herself; her countenance soon convinced our hero that they were not very gratifying; and when she had concluded, she exclaimed—"Then indeed I am

an orphan ! if my grandfather is no more, to whom can I look up for protection, to whom—”

“ To every officer in our arm ; your general stands foremost in the list—colonel Davers you know is your sworn friend—and I wish I dared suffer you to read what is passing in my heart ; but this is strangely wandering from our subject. You do not seem to be at any certainty respecting Mr. Levingstone’s denise.”

“ I merely judge from circumstances ; but pray read Mr. Donaghue’s letter ; had my grandfather been living, he would not have addressed me in such terms ; he has given me a convincing proof that he does not think me worthy his protection.”

Charles hastily perused the offered epistle, and then said, “ Mr. Donaghue may be a man of business, but I am sure he is not a man of feeling ; as to the conclusions he draws respecting Mr. Levingstone, to whom I suppose he alludes in his postscript, they may be very erroneous ; I only wish I knew how best to advise you. Colonel Davers has

many friends in England; and I am sure my mother would do all in her power to serve you; the difficulty is how you are to proceed thither."

"How indeed can such a wretched unprotected female hope to reach even Lisbon in safety? not, believe me, that I am anxious respecting my removal; why should I be averse to sharing the danger of the few friends who profess to interest themselves in my fate? might I not, should any of them suffer in this glorious struggle, prove of some service?"

Charles fully understood her meaning, and, almost unawares to himself, spoke peace to her bursting heart. She gave way to a violent flood of tears, and had she spoke, would have declared herself completely happy. Charles briefly expatiated upon the difference of their rank, and the inequality of their fortune, declaring that these circumstances alone had kept him silent, since he could not bear the idea of reducing her below her rank in life; nor did his spirit allow him to brook the idea of owing every thing to her, upon whom,

had they been at his disposal, he would have lavished worlds.

“ Did you not protect me at the imminent risk of your life? but for you, Mr. Franklin, what must ultimately have been my fate? surely it was Heaven which led you to the Castle d’Aranza, to become my saviour; where would have been my reputed property but for you? had you seized the whole, and merely sent me safe to England, I should still have considered myself your debtor.”

Charles caught her in his arms, and certainly obeyed colonel Davers’s orders, by pleading the cause of love most eloquently; still declaring that words were very inadequate to express his feelings towards her; and finally entreating that she would, in consideration of their situation, wave mere forms, and allow him to assume the right, as he now felt the wish, to protect her.

“ Believe me, my friend, I shall start no objection to any proposal of yours which comes sanctioned by the approbation of colonel Davers; but before *I take advan-*

tage of them, I must enter into a few more details respecting my grandfather; in the very brief detail I formerly gave you concerning my family annals, as my father was still living, I did not feel authorized to disclose what he considered as a dreadful blot in our 'scutcheon, particularly in mine; nay, I know he has all along supposed it prevented my being sought in marriage by a man of equal rank. If so, how much am I indebted to Heaven!"

Charles felt gratified by the implication, and pressed her to his heart; while she proceeded—"The year before my mother died—indeed I fear it shortened her days, Mr. Levingstone was declared, upon the report of his confessor, to be a concealed Jew; fortunately he was so beloved, that he made his escape, with the best part of his effects, to England, where he had many friends; since, had he fallen into the hands of the Inquisition, he would have perished in the flames, as he too surely was and is a Jew, and had merely added *stone* to his original name of Levi, to deceive

the Spanish government, as he settled at Cadiz upon the demise of his uncle, who was also doubtless of the same persuasion, but who, like my grandfather, professed to be a Catholic, that he might continue unmolested; and had Mr. Levi been less successful, I dare say he would not have fallen under the cognizance of the holy tribunal; be that as it may, my father was deeply mortified when the discovery took place; and my mother, who was dotingly fond of Mr. Levi, never recovered the shock. Fearful of being implicated in the suspicions now afloat, the duke ceased to correspond with my excellent grandfather, and has merely since heard of him through the medium of Lord Melvin and Mr. Donaghue; but when he began to foresee the present struggle, he transmitted great part of his property to Mr. Levi, who was very urgent with him to send me over; alledging that Jews were not held in such abhorrence in England as they are in Spain, since he was and ever had been the friend of many nobles; but my father could not resolve.

THE SPANISH CAMPAIGN.

to part with me, and I need not tell you what might have proved the result of his fears for my salvation : you are now as fully *au fait* of my private history as I ever was myself, and may, like my father, have an insuperable aversion to a Jew."

"I hope I am more liberal; my sweet friend; indeed I have ever respected good men of every persuasion, and there are many Jew merchants in London who rank with and associate even with royalty; therefore your affinity to Mr. Levi would not have prevented your marrying into a noble family, had your father placed you under his protection; therefore let us hope he is still living, and perhaps, when he considers your situation, he may excuse your having formed so very imprudent a connexion, I mean with respect to fortune, as my mother's family is of the first respectability; my father is, as I have told you, a baronet, but I cannot boast of his pedigree, as it is very soon lost in that of a miller; you set me an example of candour—so now tell me where Mr. Levi does or did reside?"

“ In Finsbury-square, when in London; but he has a counting-house in some alley, and he has, or had a villa within an easy distance of the metropolis, where he proposed that I should take up my abode.”

“ Then in my opinion, he ranks among our first merchants; indeed the style you say he lived in at Cadiz places that beyond a doubt; he then wished to conform in appearance to the religion of the country; so have many more very respectable men; indeed neither he nor them have had an alternative, when chance has placed them in some Catholic countries, and I can see no sin in such a deception, since he continued firm in his own persuasion.”

“ My father did not possess your liberality, my friend; he would have taught me to hate a Jew—but I felt I loved my grandfather; indeed my mother rather leaned towards his persuasion, and I adored her; as for myself, I was of course brought up a Catholic, yet I have heard my mother say, in her native language—

“ No power is safe, nor no religion good,
Whose principles of growth are writ in blood.”

alluding to our *auto de fés*; therefore I am no bigot to that creed.”

“ Henceforth, I wish you solely to make conscience your guide in matters of religion; but now, with your leave, I will impart my happy prospects to colonel Davers, as he must assist me with his advice how to bring them to bear.”

Donna Victoria was perfectly agreeable, though she wished their marriage should for the present remain a secret, as her father's recent death might lead some people to blame her precipitancy. Charles assured her he would be wholly guided by her wishes, as he approved of the motive which induced her to make the request; and at last reluctantly departed to seek his friend the colonel, who entered at once into all his views; declared Donaghue to be a time-serving scoundrel, though he hoped he had not deceived the duke respecting his remittances; and as no preparations were required, nor could any

the extent of his property; but three days after the wedding, his bride presented him with various bank receipts, saying—"I do not exactly understand the nature of your funds, but you may be more au fait of these said consols, as they are styled."

Charles stared, when he thus discovered that a hundred and twenty thousand pounds stood in her name in the bank, as she was more than of age, though she was not generally supposed to be more than nineteen, the duke not having declared his marriage with her mother till she was five years old, and he had for some frivolous state policy chosen to sink two years of her age; this she now explained to our hero, adding, "Had I not been conscious that I was perfectly my own mistress, and at liberty to dispose of all I have inherited, I should not so easily have consented to your wishes."

"You have been only too generous, my Victoria, since I should hardly have dared to urge those wishes; had I known you had such a sum in our funds."

"I feared so, therefore I kept you in ignorance."

"Well, I can only say, the whole shall be immediately secured to you, in the event of your surviving me; though I mean to petition Death to spare me, as long as he can render my life beneficial to the cause of my country, since existence was never before of such value in my estimation; still the surly old tyrant may play me a scurvy trick, therefore it is best to be prepared."

"Oh how I long for a peace," exclaimed the tearful Victoria, "without daring to look forward with hope to so desirable a conclusion of the present contest!"

"I foresee a very speedy, and a very glorious one, therefore let us look forward, with more than hope, to many pleasant days in England."

"I wish I dared place faith in your prophecy; but now let us examine this casket of jewels."

Charles was absolutely dazzled by the sight of so large a collection, though by

no means aware of their intrinsic value; since, besides the jewels of the Aranza family, which were the accumulation of near three centuries, donna Victoria pointed out many more modern decorations, saying—"I have told you my grandfather was a diamond-merchant; these are the presents he made my mother when she married, and these are what he bestowed upon me, at different periods, before he left Spain; yet my father often repeated, *he is a Jew.*"

"The very one, by your account, who sat for Cumberland's masterly portrait of the benevolent Israelite—*he was the Jew of Cadiz*; but as I said before, I am no judge of the real value of these jewels; I only know, that should you, as your rank will require, be presented at St. James's, you will eclipse most of our belles of fashion."

"The greatest part I shall request you would dispose of; my grandfather's gifts I shall retain, and a few of those most valued by my father; but here are besides, rings of all shapes and sizes, cameos, intaglioes, onyxes, &c. and in one of those

lesser trunks is deposited the costly gold plate, jewels, &c. belonging to our chapel; the other small boxes contain gold coin of my father's collecting; and, as matters have turned out, I rejoice he was averse to sending them to England, or to part with them from under his own eye; the best family plate is in the other trunks; my father disposed of three times more than I have brought away, in exchange for the gold I mentioned, which goes into a much less compass; here are the keys of all the receptacles; the locks were sealed down by my poor father, when he packed the boxes, which he had previously conveyed into the strong room; you assisted to pack the remainder of the plate, and to remove the pictures, and I now request you would take charge of the whole."

"For your sake, much more than my own, my dear girl, I wish your property was safe in England; had I guessed you were but half as rich, I never dared have preferred my suit; so I must agree it is all for the best."

“I only wish, like Portia, (my father made me read that play very often, after my grandfather was known to be a Jew) that I were—

* A thousand times more fair, ten thousand times
More rich; that, to stand high in your account
I might in virtues, beauties, livings, ~~ends~~,
Exceed account;’

—when, in fact, to express myself in the sense of that excellent writer, I am a mere untaught girl, not, I hope, too old or too dull to learn, but most happy in being placed under your guidance.”

“May you never have reason to repent your confidence in me, my dear love! I hope we shall henceforth have only one will, therefore had not we better suffer these jewels, this money, and plate, to remain sealed down?—I have money by me to answer our immediate expences.”

“So have I, my dear Charles; in this dressing-case I have sufficient to provide for all our present wants; we do not wish to increase our baggage, by making additions to our wardrobes.”

“Certainly not, and at present no one is aware, nor do I wish they should, of the real value of your property; from the ~~general~~ and colonel Davers I shall keep no secrets; they will, I know, advise its being removed, as soon as possible, to Lisbon, as a place of more safety; and should they grant me leave of absence for that purpose, perhaps you would have no objection to accompanying me thither, as there you would be perfectly safe, and might, should it be deemed prudent, embark for England with your treasures.”

“We shall never part again, with my own consent; still I agree that you are so much the better judge of the fit and the unfit of my situation, that I promise to be guided by your wishes; I only desire you would recollect that I am as able and willing to follow the army as any of the soldier’s wives; they, as Susan has told me, glory in sharing the toils and dangers of their husbands, and yet they do not love like me.”

“Nor could I consent to your giving me even such kind proofs of your regard.”

Before donna Victoria could reply, Beatrice entered the apartment, breathless with alarm. Charles eagerly inquired "what had occasioned her fright?"

"Oh sir! who should I stumble upon as I was coming out of a shop in the next street, but two vile servants of my poor dear master, who joined the French, rascals as they were, the moment they took possession of the Castle; nay, they openly boasted, in my hearing, of having long been in their pay."

"Do you mean Gaspar and Diego?" asked donna Victoria; "these were our major-domo, and a footman, his relation, whom my father had long suspected of being, as they boasted, French spies; but why should the sight of them occasion you so serious an alarm, Beatrice? and how came they here, if they have joined the French?"

"Oh, they tell a different story now, for they would intrude their discourse upon me; but I place no faith in their recantation, since I could almost swear they waylaid and murdered poor Velasquez, when

his grace sent him to Lisbon—he was found dead, you must remember; and if these fellows were in the pay of the French, they must ~~earn~~ their wages; but now, forsooth, they wanted to make me believe that they were with my master in his last moments, and that they swore to deliver his last message to you, which has induced them to enter — at great personal risk, to fulfil their promise; they wanted to accompany me home, but I told them I dared not introduce them without your leave; however, they swore so repeatedly that it would be greatly to your interest to hear what they have to say, that, anxious to get rid of them for the present, and not knowing how you might feel inclined, I promised to meet them to-morrow evening near the same spot, but at a late hour, as they are afraid of being seen by daylight; but having caught sight of me as I passed their window, they ran after me at every risk, they are so anxious to deliver the duke's message to you; so now your ladyship

must decide whether you chuse to see them."

"We must take time for consideration, my worthy friend," rejoined our hero; "you have acted with your accustomed prudence, and you shall know our intentions as soon as we have come to any final determination."

Gratified by his praises, the old lady retired to communicate her frights and fears to Susan, and to amaze her with another detail of the late duke's grand style of living; and while she was thus holding forth, the new-married couple were debating whether donna Victoria ought to receive these men.

"If they really were the bearers of her father's last words, she should never forgive herself were she not to admit them," she told our hero; "they might have been forced, as many more had been, to join the French; and probably they were thus *conscientious*, in hopes of being amply rewarded, though, like the generality of the household, they supposed every thing

of value had been long since sent to England."

"You must be wholly guided by your feelings, my dear girl; I would only have you consider that it is very probable these fellows may be spies, in the pay of the enemy—still they may have been with the duke in his last moments; and as I do not conceive you can run any risk in merely listening to what they have to say, I see no reason why you should refuse to see them; Beatrice may be present, and I will be within call."

"I had much rather you should also be present, Charles, for I have a very bad opinion of these men, and yet I am anxious to see them—they cannot refuse to speak before you, as I shall say you are my best friend, and that I will be answerable for your silence."

While she was speaking, our hero had been looking round the room, and he now told her, that he thought he might be present without their being aware of the cir-

cumstance, as just behind the door there stood a large old-fashioned couch or settee, upon which, if it was turned round towards the wall, he could lie *perdue*, as the back was very high, and would perfectly conceal him.

Donna Victoria was delighted with his plan, and Beatrice was no less pleased. Colonel Davers was, as usual in all cases of emergency, admitted into their councils, and he saw no impropriety in hearing what the men had to say. "The lower classes were very apt still to connect the idea of liberty and equality with the Gallic name, and to fancy the present ruler was a democrat; therefore these deluded beings might be really attached to their late master, though in the French interest; at all events, he should be within call during their stay, though there did not seem any probability of their intentions being hostile."

CHAP. IX.

No event having occurred to induce our hero and donna Victoria to make any alterations in their plans; donna Beatrice was dispatched rather before dark in search of Gaspar and Diego; if they were not in waiting, she was to return, as Charles could then make a proper search for them, and oblige them to reveal all they had to impart, as the price of their release.

But they were punctual to their appointment, and as it was still light enough to distinguish objects, our hero, who was upon the look-out, saw them approaching, habited like peasants, in Montero caps, and wrapped in the coarsest sort of cloaks, bare-legged, and shod with hempen sandals: having prepared his wife to expect them, he retreated to his couch, and in another minute they entered the room, preceded by Beatrice, who said, as she advanced towards her mistress, who was seated at the upper end of the room, nearly opposite

the couch, "It is hardly light enough, my lady, for you to recognise two of your old servants, Gaspar and Diego, who have assured me that they have something of importance to communicate to you," drawing back a few paces as she concluded, to make way for Gaspar to advance, which he did, bowing repeatedly, saying, "Yes, my lady, we have matters of importance to communicate." While he was speaking, Diego carefully closed the door, and then also drew near, Beatrice remaining standing between him and Gaspar, who being now within a few feet of donna Victoria, continued in a lower voice, "You may have heard, madam, that your father is no more, and that he has been declared a traitor to the cause he affected to espouse."

"I merely wish to hear his last words and not your remarks."

"Oh, I will be brief."*

"Yes, yes," cried Diego, "and you shall soon follow Velasquez, madam Beatrice," raising his arm while speaking.

"Villains! rascals!" cried our hero, leap-

ing from his couch, having previously drawn his sword; but he was too late to avert the blow destined for Beatrice; instantly rushing upon Gaspar, who was not equally prepared to execute his vile purpose, though he had the dagger in his hand; but one well-aimed stroke of Charles's well tempered blade almost severed it from the wrist; the deadly weapon fell upon the floor; and Gaspar upon his knees, while donna Victoria and the wounded Beatrice both screamed murder; the latter fell weltering in her blood, at the moment colonel Davers, alarmed by the screams, came to the assistance of our hero, followed by Susan May, who stood aghast, while the colonel and Charles disarmed the murderer. "Summon the guard!" cried the colonel, addressing Susan, "but make no bustle; and do you, Charles, remove donna Victoria into another room; leave these wretches with me." Convinced that the assassins were both disarmed, and the one completely disabled, Charles acceded to his wishes, as his wife appeared more dead than alive; but having swallow-

ed a glass of wine, and heard Charles return his thanks to Heaven for her almost miraculous escape, she was able to follow his example, and our hero now made use of every argument likely to calm her agitated spirits; while the colonel stood sentinel over the villains till the guard arrived, to whom he consigned them, with a very strict charge; and having then, with Susan, examined the unfortunate Beatrice, he pronounced her no more, the dagger having pierced her heart, and gave orders for her removal into another room, desiring Susan to secure the daggers, and then follow him to her lady, who he found rather recovered from the fright, weeping in her husband's arms.

The colonel was furious against the wretches who had occasioned her agitation, swearing "they should be hanged as spies before that hour next day," desiring Charles to tell him all that had passed after their entrance.

This our hero did in a very few words, declaring "that the fellows must have been insane, to have hoped to have escaped

undetected, and he was at a loss to guess what motive they could have for wishing to murder his wife? Beatrice had, he feared, imprudently accused them of having assassinated a fellow-servant, heretofore; but what could his Victoria have done, to provoke their sanguinary revenge?"

"I escaped from their clutches unhurt," she faltered out; "had you been at all less rapid in your movements, or had you displayed less presence of mind, my dear Charles, I must inevitably have shared the fate of poor Beatrice, as I saw Gaspar, as he stood before me, cautiously draw his dagger from beneath his cloak, and my lips opened to scream, when your exclamation and sudden appearance stopped his hand, and gave me strength to exert my voice to summon the kind colonel to your aid."

Charles did not need my assistance in your defence, my young friend; he was, and proved himself, an host; but as I am very anxious to hear what these rascals have to say, not in their own defence, for they cannot attempt to palliate their crime,

but we may learn what induced them to devote themselves to destruction, (I think the persuasions and promises of some greater villains than themselves,) therefore will you give Charles leave of absence for a short time, as he must state facts to the general? your having asked your former protector to be present, when you received the villains, will not appear strange to our officers; leave us to manage matters; Susan shall remain with you."

"I understand poor Beatrice is no more. I only hope I shall become a real heroine in time, and fit for a soldier's wife; so do not let me detain you, my dear Charles—I am as anxious as you can be, colonel, to learn why these wretches wished to murder me."

The colonel and our hero, therefore, proceeded to the general's, having taken every likely precaution to insure donna Victoria's safety during their absence, though they neither of them thought her in any serious danger, now Gaspar and Diego were secure.

The general was extremely shocked when he learnt the serious risk she had ran; he agreed that her wish to see the men was very natural, and he also applauded Charles's chusing to be present; he wished, whenever a doubtful case occurred, to display his lenity towards the native Spaniards; but these men were doubtless in the pay of the French; he should therefore try them as spies, since their murder of Beatrice must render them the detestation of all the good Spanish subjects.

We shall not detail the trial of these worthless beings; suffice it to say, that it was conducted in strict compliance with military law, and that they were condemned, as spies and murderers, to suffer death. Aware that they must suffer the penalty of their guilt, they acknowledged that they entered — purposely to murder donna Victoria and her attendant, and only regretted that they had not proceeded with more caution, since, had they suspected there had been a man concealed, they should have told a preconcerted tale, and

have waited for a more favourable opportunity. Diego, who had killed Beatrice, was much the most daring, as he openly declared his hopes that the French would revenge their cause, since they were advancing to liberate Spain from the pretended friendship of those heretics the English.

Charles, who had been requested by donna Victoria to put a few questions to them before their judges, now inquired, "what had induced them to attempt her life? they had given some reason for having wreaked their vengeance upon the unfortunate Beatrice."

Gaspar looked at Diego, as if to desire him to resolve our hero's question, which he did with the same candour and insolence which had hitherto marked his discourse. "We neither of us owed donna Victoria any particular ill-will; but it has been policy of late for every one to look to themselves; she and her father set us the example; the duke thought himself mighty cunning, but none but fools were his

dupes; however, he has paid for his treachery, and his old castle has been burnt to the ground; he had taken care to move off his treasures in time, and you gentlemen carried away all the remaining valuables; now Gaspar and me wished to have gone snacks with you; and had he taken as sure aim as I did last night, and we had escaped undetected, why, the ruins of the old castle and the estate might have fallen to our share, since donna Victoria was the only surviving heir that I ever heard of."

"And you were deluded by such vague hopes," said colonel Davers, "into the commission of so deadly a sin; as I should have supposed you must have known that general Roncevalles has seized the estates of the late duke of Aranza."

"To be sure we do; but he does not wish to reside in Spain, and he has not forgiven donna Victoria for having delivered the castle to the English."

"Then in fact you were only his emissaries; and were, perhaps, also accessory

to the death of your late master?" rejoined Charles.

"Why, look you, young gentleman, we owed the duke a serious grudge; still, if he would have told us where to find any part of his treasures, or have given us an order upon the old Jew his father-in-law, we would have saved his life; but he was obstinate, and put no faith in our promises, so we put him out of his misery; and if you had not lain *perdue*, but had faced us like a man, I question whether I should now be at your mercy."

Charles asked no more questions, fully convinced that these wretches were the very instruments in the hands of unprincipled men, to extend the mischief these principals conceived.

That they had murdered their late master was now beyond a doubt, and with as little remorse they would have murdered his daughter, to have obtained the promised reward, which would of course have been withheld; and the greatest favour they would

have met with would have been to have been admitted to join the French army, and to fight against the loyal Spaniards. They were now ordered into custody, previous to the execution of their sentence, and indulged with a confessor ; while our hero returned to give in his report to his wife, merely telling her the wretches had been bribed by the disappointed general to revenge his cause ; as to their having any message from her father, that was all a mere pretence to obtain an audience ; they only knew, as many more did, that he was no more, but had certainly never been appointed his messengers.

Donna Victoria asked no more questions ; and the ensuing day, colonel Davers sent off her letter to Mr. Levi, to whom she had fully related the recent attempt upon her life, and how it was preserved ; and so fearful was our hero of a similar attempt being repeated, that he was urgent for her removal to Lisbon ; her present abode also continually reminded her of the deceased Beatrice, though she had changed her

apartment ; still she was, in Charles's opinion, very unpleasantly situated ; when to his great joy, about a month after Gaspar and Diego had suffered an ignominious death, as he had lived in constant dread of finding her a corpse, when he returned after any lengthened absence, the general gave orders for the removal of a quantity of stores, some heavy artillery, &c. which were to be sent to Lisbon, as the army was preparing to advance further into Spain, and it was not deemed prudent to leave any thing of value behind them, in case the French should take possession of —. Colonel Davers, who was always anxious to befriend our hero, easily obtained the general's promise to appoint part of the company to which he belonged to escort the convoy ; and as but few officers could be spared, he was placed at the head of those selected for this duty, and thus enabled to continue the guardian and protector of his wife, during a journey she would otherwise very unwillingly have undertaken.

CHAP. X.

THE coach which had brought donna Victoria from Aranza was prepared for her journey to Lisbon, and was to be drawn by the mules which had equally belonged to her father, which would move as slowly as her husband expected to proceed; all the smaller boxes and caskets, and one or two of the larger trunks, were securely packed in and about this vehicle, while the larger chests and the pictures, which were now deposited in packing-cases, were stowed in one of the baggage waggons; and at the appointed time donna Victoria and Susan May took their seats in the carriage, and fell into the train of vehicles our hero was destined to escort. She had hoped to have heard from, or rather of, her grandfather before she left —; but colonel Davers, who took a most affectionate leave of her, reminded her, that even had the agent written by return of post, which

would not have been fulfilling his commission, they could scarcely have received his answer; the moment he received it he promised to forward it to Lisbon, where he advised her for the present taking up her abode in some convent, or in some respectable Portuguese family as a boarder, to facilitate which, he gave our hero a letter to a merchant, who was in habits of intimacy with the general, who had written to recommend the young wife to his care and protection during her husband's absence, as Charles was to return as speedily as the nature of the service he was going upon would admit, to the main army.

Charles was, as usual, strict in his duty, and did not suffer his regard for his wife to interfere with his military concerns; but when they halted of an evening, he made a point of securing her the best accommodations; and when he had seen the men and baggage properly bestowed, he devoted his whole time to her, and they generally beguiled the hours in laying plans for the future. If, as Charles continued to

hope, Mr. Levi was still living, he wished his wife to proceed to England with her property, and to place herself under his protection, as he feared that she would not feel comfortable at Lisbon, while he continued in Spain, nor did he relish the idea of leaving her among strangers; he had therefore half resolved, if Mr. Levi was no more, to place her under the protection of his friend Frazer, in preference to recommending her to his mother, who might embroil herself with his uncle, should she appear to countenance his wife, and he had no right to expect she would sacrifice the interest of her other children to his convenience. This he did not tell donna Victoria, merely hinting, that were he to consign her to his mother, he must publicly declare their marriage, and to this she was very averse, her father's death was so recent; the agent's answer must decide their plans, and Charles hoped it would reach Lisbon while he remained there, as they could settle matters much better while together, than by pen and ink.

Donna Victoria was by no means averse to placing herself under the protection of Mr. Levi ; but told her husband, she should in that case leave the most portable part of her property, namely, the gold coin, in his possession, as she knew the duke had purposely kept him in ignorance of his having accumulated such a sum, and he might have family or other reasons for so doing ; at all events, she chose to conform, as far as existing circumstances admitted, to his wishes, and she trusted her beloved Charles would suffer her to do so : our hero assured her he would be solely guided by her wishes, though he could not understand why the duke felt averse to Mr. Levi's knowing the extent of his property ; still, as he might be actuated by very wise motives, they had better be guided by his directions. " I am the more inclined to adhere to them," replied donna Victoria, " as I know my father gave my good grandfather to understand, that, family plate and jewels excepted, he had transmitted all he could command to England ; and it would be very gra-

ting to his feelings to find the duke had made such a reserve, for fear (for such was my father's dread) he should embezzle what he had entrusted him with." Charles agreed that the duke might have acted prudently, but he had not displayed his confidence in doubtless a very honest man; however, they should have full time allowed them to reflect upon how they ought to act; and they might, as the wiser head of the three, appeal to the judgment of colonel Davers, who would certainly favour them with his best advice; donna Victoria was very partial to the colonel, and very ready to be guided by his superior judgment.

Thus during the eight days their journey lasted did our happy pair employ their evenings. Charles, at her request, entered into a minute detail respecting his own family, and she again related all she knew respecting Mr. Levi, who must, if he was, as Mr. Donaghue supposed, no more, have mentioned her in his will, and the executors of such a man must be able to afford

her protection: so thought Charles, still he was averse to consigning her to the care of utter strangers, but resolved to be guided by circumstances, and the advice of his benevolent protector.

On the eighth morning after their departure from —, they were enabled, from an eminence, to discern the spires of Lisbon, which Charles pointed out to his wife when the carriage stopped, as did all the others, to lock one of the wheels; and as they slowly descended the hill, donna Victoria, who was anxious to have a full view of this fine city, stood up in the carriage, with her head out of the window, sometimes looking towards Lisbon, but oftener back at her husband, who remained upon the summit of the eminence, issuing his orders to the different drivers, when a heavy piece of ordnance which was closely following the coach, overpowered the horses; the drivers did all in their power to avoid the vehicle, which they endeavoured to pass, but in so doing they came so violently in contact with the

hind wheel, that they overturned it before donna Victoria had withdrawn her head, or was at all aware of the impending danger ; the shock proved fatal, as she never spoke again ; indeed, owing to her position, her death was instantaneous.

Charles saw the accident, and had but the moment before seen his wife looking towards him : he flew towards the spot, but merely to be convinced of the extent of his misfortune. We shall not attempt to describe his feelings ; he stood silently gazing upon the lifeless form, and there was a mournful eloquence in his speechless grief, very different to the clamorous sorrow of poor Susan May, who had escaped unhurt, and who had been vainly trying to restore her beloved mistress, when Charles came up and saw she was no more ; all secrecy was now at an end, and every soldier participated in their commander's sorrow ; till Charles, by an heroic effort, shook off his stupor, and though a manly drop or two would steal down his cheeks, he issued his orders in his usual tone of

voice. As the coach had not received any material injury, the luggage was replaced as before, and the corse was placed on the seat, the weeping Susan taking her place at the bottom, to support it from falling; and thus they once more set forward, every one, more or less, having participated in the dreadful shock Charles had sustained, who now thought it necessary to send one of the inferior officers forward, to announce their approach to Mr. Maddocks, the merchant to whom the general had written, and at whose house donna Victoria was to have alighted; but it now appeared more consonant to our hero's feelings, and to his ideas of propriety, to have the corse deposited in some private lodging, where he might give a free loose to his grief. He entrusted the general's letter to his messenger, and desired him to hasten forward, and give him the meeting at the entrance of the town: the messenger mounted one of the horses that could be spared, and galloped off; while the convoy slowly and silently proceeded on its way;

When, at the very entrance of the town, while Charles, who was walking by the side of the coach, was eagerly looking out for the serjeant he had sent forward, an elderly man stopped the driver, and thus addressed our hero, who at first concluded it was Mr. Maddocks, "I have this moment learnt the dreadful accident which has befallen the duke of Aranza's daughter, who was, I suppose, coming to claim my protection; my name is Donaghue, and I am the friend and have been the confidential agent of both the late duke and Mr. Levi; I am therefore authorized to take charge of her remains, and of what property she may have saved out of the wreck of her fortunes; I will see her committed to the ground as becomes her rank, and I—"

"You are not required to interfere, sir," replied Charles, now thoroughly roused by what he deemed a very impertinent and a very mercenary proposal, "as *donna Victoria D'Aranza* died my wife."

"Your wife, sir! exclaimed the as-

tonished Donaghue; "you must be imposing upon me; but I shall oblige you to prove your assertion, before I suffer you to embezzle her property, which I meant to secure for Mr. Levi."

Never had Charles felt more enraged, and he retorted so severely upon the time-serving Donaghue, that he was retreating, threatening to call our hero to a severe account, when Mr. Maddocks joined him, accompanied by the serjeant; his appearance hastened the departure of Donaghue, as he now feared that he had been too precipitate; at all events, from Mr. Maddocks he should learn whether he could, with any hopes of success, lay claim to the property of the deceased, in the name of Mr. Levi.

Solely in compliance with our hero's repeated wishes, this worthy merchant suffered the corse to be conveyed to a hotel, where it might, in conformity to the custom of all Catholic countries, be placed under the care of two or more priests, whose superiors would make the necessary

preparations for the interment, which must take place on the next, or the following day at furthest, such being the general rule.

This Maddocks, who could enter into the feelings of the youthful widowed husband, briefly explained, promising to give every necessary order while he attended to his military duties, adding, "Whatever you may not choose to place in the magazines appropriated to warlike stores, I shall be most happy to take charge of." Charles thanked him for his polite offer, and then reverted to Donaghue's impudent attack upon him. "Oh, never heed the paltry fellow; he hoped he should be able to make a beneficial job of the dreadful circumstance; but I will prevent his giving you any further trouble; I much fear he has already made a handle of his agency, and as both the duke and his daughter are no more, it may be difficult to oblige him to account for all he has received."

Charles was never more indifferent respecting pecuniary affairs; but having, in

conjunction with Mr. Maddocks, seen the corse safely deposited in a proper apartment, for the reception of the priests, he left it under the care of the still-weeping Susan, while he proceeded with the valuable part of the baggage to the storehouse appropriated to the use of the British army, where, sanctioned by an order from the commander-in-chief, he was permitted to deposit what he might now safely deem his own, and having placed his seal upon all the boxes, &c. he was allowed to secure the key of the room he had selected, and to affix his seal upon the door. Possibly but for Mr. Donaghue's attempt to gain possession of his property, he would have been much less cautious; but that gentleman had roused him from the torpor of grief, and had therefore, by recalling his ideas to the future, done him a real service; still he had that within him which presseth show; but having strictly fulfilled his military duties, he returned to mourn over his beloved Victoria, as he felt, that—

“The grief which does not speak,
Whispers the o’er-fraught heart, and bids it break.”

Mr. Maddocks had given every necessary order, and fain would he have prevailed upon our hero not to have shared the watching of the corse with the priests; but he found him resolutely bent upon paying what he deemed the last tribute of affection to the deceased. Every accustomed rite and previous mark of respect having been strictly observed, on the second morning after the accident, the remains of the hapless donna Victoria were committed to the grave: our hero followed her as chief-mourner; Mr. Maddocks paid him and her a similar compliment, as did a Mr. Wroughton, whom he brought with him. Donaghy was of course not invited; he had called upon Maddocks in the evening of the day he had made his unsuccessful attempt to obtain possession of the property of the deceased, and being received by that gentleman, he seriously inquired whether “the duke of Aranza’s daughter had mar-

ried the *boy* of a lieutenant, who called himself her husband?"

"She certainly had," was the reply.

"And pray, who is he? I presume he took some unfair advantage of her situation."

"He is a man of family, and has very great expectations; and as the marriage was sanctioned by many of the superior officers, I am convinced that no advantage was taken of the credulity of the deceased."

"That I much doubt," was the retort; "but pray what property has been saved from the wreck of the duke's fortune?"

"I did not think myself authorized to inquire, since it is now the undoubted property of lieutenant Franklin."

"So it appears, according to your statement; therefore, if he will give me a receipt in full, I will pay the trifle I still retain, belonging to the late duke, into his hands; you may mention my intention to him, Mr. Maddocks."

"When his wife is buried, will be time enough to talk of business;" and thus they

separated, Donaghue still hoping to turn the demise of donna Victoria to some account, and to render our hero in some respects his dupe.

CHAP. XI.

THE day of the funeral our hero devoted to solitude, and to the memory of the deceased; but he now reflected—

“ That valour soars above
What the world calls misfortune and affliction,
Which are not ills, else they would never fall
On Heaven's first favourites, and the best of men.
The gods in bounty work up storms about us,
That give mankind occasion to exert
Their hidden strength, and throw out into practice,
Virtues that shun the day, and lie conceal'd
In the smooth seasons and the calms of life ;”

he therefore returned to the duties of his profession the next morning, and having assumed the only insignia of mourning his profession permitted him to display,

he appeared resigned; if not cheerful, as he confessed—

“That the ways of Heaven,
Though dark, are just.”

According to promise, he paid his devoirs to the Maddocks family, to every branch of which he considered himself as greatly indebted, as the ladies had taken Susan under their protection, and promised to retain her till she wished to return home; Mr. Maddocks received him with real pleasure, and would have led the discourse to general subjects, if Charles had not reverted to Donaghue, not appearing inclined to shrink from naming his wife. “He is a precious rogue, and is still lying in wait to circumvent you; but before I expose his baseness, suffer me to introduce you to a gentleman, who has sincerely sympathized in your loss, but who would not prematurely intrude upon your sorrows: Mr. Wrighton, a Spanish merchant, the intimate friend of Mr. Levi; he is just arrived from London, and is proceeding to

Cadiz, but took Lisbon in his way, having some commercial concerns to arrange with me and others : he was the bearer of letters to donna Victoria and to you, which he sent off to colonel Davers the day before you reached Lisbon ; and he also addressed you himself, as he then thought donna Victoria might have been inclined to accompany him on his return to England." Our hero cordially received Mr. Wrighton's proffered hand, and declared himself very happy to hear Mr. Levi was still living, relating what Donaghue had written to his wife upon that subject.

" That fellow is a complete scoundrel," said Mr. Wrighton ; " he never forwarded donna Victoria's first letter to my friend, whose anxiety may be easily conceived, after he had read the various accounts respecting her escape from Aranza, in our newspapers, and he meant to have addressed you, Mr. Franklin, upon the subject, when donna Victoria's voluminous packet was presented to him by colonel Davers's agent ; his letters will convince

you how much he approved of her marriage; and he has also explained to both you and her what property he has placed in her name (that being the late duke's wish) in the bank, and I know that it was his intention to make her his heir; when you are better acquainted with him, I am sure you will like him: but to return to this Donaghue; he has not only kept back all the late duke's last letters, but also a large remittance which was made him from the Brazils for his grace, and which the duke desired him to transmit to Mr. Levi, to whom he inclosed this letter from Donaghue in the last packet he sent from Spain; it contains an acknowledgment of the receipt of six thousand pounds, which he promises to consign to Mr. Levi as soon as possible; now as he has told Mr. Maddocks, that if you will give him a receipt in full, he will pay into your hands the *trifle* he retains of the duke's money, let us see what he means to offer you, as this letter must oblige him to do you justice."

Charles was infinitely gratified by this

proof of Mr. Wrighton's confidence, who entered into various details respecting Mr. Levi, all tending to increase his respect for that gentleman, to whom our hero wrote that very day a concise account of his wife's death; and as his letter was a transcript of his feelings, it proved, as he hoped, at once soothing and agonizing to the worthy man; and well it was for Charles that he was thus prepared to meet Donaghue on his own grounds, since he merely offered him a sixth part of the sum he had in hand, but was, in consequence of his own letter, obliged to refund even to the last farthing, and self-convicted of being a rogue.

Wishing to display his confidence in Mr. Levi, Charles, through the medium of Mr. Maddocks, transmitted the money so recovered to him, to be placed in the funds; he also sent him the pictures by a merchant-ship bound to London, for fear the damp of the store-houses should injure them, and the two chests of plate, which he had himself packed at the Castle of Aranza, as they

contained the most bulky and the least valuable part of his property, and would prove the most awkward to remove; when having settled all his business, and bestowed her deceased lady's wardrobe upon Susan, whom he left under the care of Mr. Maddocks, he returned with his small party to the main army, to share in the glory they were daily acquiring; having added Mr. Maddocks and Mr. Wroughton to his list of friends.

While he is retracing his steps, convinced that—

“ Affliction is the wholesome soil of virtue :
Where patience, honour, sweet humanity,
Calm fortitude, take root, and strongly flourish,”

we will return to England, where, much about the same time, Mr. Levi received our hero's affecting letter, and one of a similar date from Mr. Wroughton, which raised him, if possible; still more in his esteem, and a third from Donaghue, who having attempted to gloss over his own mean duplicity and dishonesty, fell foul

of poor Charles, in the most virulent terms, declaring he was devoid both of principle and feeling, as he had obliged him, on the very day after he had buried his wife, to account to him to the last farthing for the sum he had purposely retained to assist donna Victoria, had she been so reduced as to require such a supply; and certainly had Mr. Levi not known the writer, and been less acquainted with our hero's real character, he might have done him an injury in his esteem; as it was, Mr. Levi wrote him an answer, which effectually prevented him for ever again addressing him.

But during the week in which the Jew received these letters, a sort of vague account of donna Victoria's death found its way into some of the daily prints, which led our hero's family to suppose he had married her, previous to her decease; but as the editors had received their intelligence from ~~no~~ very authentic sources, their accounts of the accident, and of her family and property, were very erroneous; though they

all agreed in asserting that the French were in possession of her estates, and that they had first plundered, and then burnt her father's castle, which certainly did not give their readers room to suppose that she had greatly increased her husband's fortune. Lady Franklin was surprised when she read some of these paragraphs, yet as she knew her son had a staunch friend in colonel Davers, she did not feel uneasy, and she communicated her security to sir George, who agreed with her, that at all events, Charles was not likely to be a loser by his marriage, since he was already a widower ; but as she wished to be rather more *au fait* of the business, she wrote to our hero, to request a clearer explanation of what she at present very imperfectly understood.

Nor did Mr. Counsellor Franklin, as the miser was sometimes styled, find his paper at all more satisfactory ; he read and re-read the paragraphs respecting donna Victoria's marriage and death, till he vowed the editor was a fool, and had better have afforded his reader some authentic accounts

of the state of affairs in Spain, than to have filled his columns with such nonsense respecting this girl and his silly nephew, who seemed resolved to convince him that he did not possess even common sense, since a boy like him, hardly out of his teens, to marry at all, except, indeed, with wonderful great prospects, was little short of madness, and, situated as Charles was, must, had this girl lived, have effectually marred his future promotion; but what was it to him? he had done with the silly fool; to be sure, he had once saved his life, and that led him to lament his folly. In this frame of mind, and half disposed to quarrel with straws, he proceeded to the Auction Mart, having, as usual, a bargain in view; since, though more and more undecided respecting the future disposal of his immense property, he was as eager as heretofore to increase his possessions; he here met Mr. Levi, who was come upon a similar errand, though guided by very different motives, as he was come to repurchase a house

which the creditors of a poor widow obliged her to sell, though they knew that to part with it would complete her ruin, as it suited her business, which she could not easily remove, and was situated among her own connections.

The counsellor and him were upon speaking terms, and as they happened to be placed near each other, the usual compliments passed between them, when Levi added, "Lieutenant Franklin has left Lisbon, I find; poor young man, he has made an early acquaintance with grief; I can suppose that the shock he must have undergone rendered his loss more severe."

"Are you alluding to his marriage with that Spanish girl, whom the papers report to have died within sight of Lisbon, by the overturning of some waggon or carriage?"

"I certainly alluded to that event, sir."

"Then let me tell you, Mr. Levi, he had more reason to rejoice than to grieve at her death, if he really was so silly as to

marry her, since I believe he would have found it difficult to maintain her upon his pay."

"I am convinced he would have had no reason to complain, since she was my granddaughter."

"Your granddaughter! what! was she a Jew? I understood she was the daughter of a Spanish don, whom the French had first pillaged and then murdered."

"She was the daughter of the late duke of Aranza, who married my only daughter, during my residence in Spain; but neither mother nor child were of my profession of faith."

"What, I suppose the mother turned Catholic when she married? You were not consenting to the match, I presume?"

"Yes, sir, I was; circumstances, not choice, had obliged me to take up my abode at Cadiz, where I was required to appear to conform to the religion of the country; but I was no hypocrite; the priest who was supposed to be my confessor was in my confidence; he betrayed

me, though he professed Christianity; and had I not made myself many friends, I should probably have ended my days in the Inquisition."

"You had a lucky escape; but to return to this girl whom my fool of a nephew married; she had no fortune, of course, as the French have seized her father's estates; the papers did say, when they related (for want of something to fill their columns) that she had escaped out of their clutches, she had brought away some pictures and some plate; was that true?"

"They were correct in their statement, and I am in daily expectation of the plate and pictures."

"Oh, they were yours, after all; some you left behind, I suppose; a pretty match the boy has made of it, as I dare say all his fine quality wife could call her own was her hair string and her bodkin; however, I shall not grieve for his folly; I have done with him; I took him under my protection at fourteen, Mr. Levi, gave him an education that would have fitted him for a peer,

and I had even planned measures to make him one, upon my soul, when the young dog, as he has been, now connected himself with a trumpery slut, who took advantage of his weakness, and saddled him with a bastard; I was, as you would have been, very angry when I discovered the intrigue, and how my savings were likely to be spent, so I discarded my young gentleman for ever; though had he made proper concessions, I might have yet done something for him; instead of which, he chose to go abroad; and if he had not stumbled upon this girl, why, he might have made his way, as the dog has quick parts and great courage; when he was a mere child. (indeed that induced me to take him under my protection,) he saved my life, at the imminent risk of his own."

"And yet you discarded him, without remorse, for a mere juvenile error! I have heard the story before, but you were so much favoured by the relater, that I thought you were much less to blame than you have

acknowledged yourself to have been, since, had not I been already the staunch friend of your nephew, your account of him would have rendered me so. I wish you a good-morning, sir ;” removing to a distant part of the room, leaving the old man to vent his spleen upon the auctioneer, and those who opposed him in bidding, since he could not secure the bargain, and was very angry with himself for not having asked the rich Jew many more questions, and still more vexed at his avowed determination to prove himself his nephew’s friend. What business had such officious fools to intermeddle with other people’s families ? this Levi had often disappointed him of very good bargains ; he was so anxious to remove the opprobrium of Jew from his name, that he was foolishly benevolent, absurdly charitable, the easy dupe of every well-told tale of distress ; however, Charles’s pride would prevent him from profiting by his avowed friendship ; and if he did rise in his profession, he

might, after a time, make overtures of reconciliation.

CHAP. XII.

Davers received our hero, when he returned to his duty, as he would have done a beloved son, and appeared fully to participate in his feelings with respect to donna Victoria—approved of every thing that he had done with respect to the consignments he had made to Mr. Levi—and presented him with the packet which had been forwarded by Mr. Wrighton, the contents of which perfectly corresponded with that gentleman's hints, as Mr. Levi expressed his entire approbation of his granddaughter's marriage, and entered into a very succinct, but clear detail, respecting her funded property; but we shall not repeat what the reader is already

fully acquainted with, and our hero was soon too fully employed to have much time for reflection, as the enemy made various desperate efforts to dislodge that part of the army among whom he was stationed, in one of which he was slightly wounded, and several other officers were killed, among whom was a captain in his own regiment, and, to our hero's great surprise, he was immediately raised to that rank; colonel Davers merely smiled at his astonishment, telling him he understood from the *higher powers*, that he had powerful friends at home, which, added to his bravery, would soon place him at the head of his profession. Charles could only suppose lord Malton had accelerated his promotion, to oblige his mother, whose letter, in which she mentioned his marriage, soon after reached him, as did a most affectionate epistle from Mr. Levi, in answer to his from Lisbon, and one equally kind and consolatory from his friend Frazer; he communicated the two first to colonel Davers, who pronounced Levi to be truly

“the Israelite without guile,” since he seemed to have almost paternal feelings towards our hero ; he detailed what had passed between him and the rich miser ; invited him, in the most pressing, affectionate terms, to take up his abode with him when he returned ; requesting he would draw upon him to any amount, as he should not meddle with the stock, now his, till he came to England, when it might be sold out, or transferred into his name, which he preferred ; the pictures and plate were already arrived, and he should place the money he had sent over in the bank ; and concluded by giving him directions to various people in Spain, who would, he felt convinced, be happy to afford him any assistance, or to do him any service, if he mentioned his name.

Our hero was very much flattered by this letter, which he immediately answered, as he did his mother's, to whom, by the colonel's advice, he acknowledged his marriage, and also related the death of his wife ; but as lady Franklin had not asked

any questions respecting her property, he did not touch upon the subject, rather wishing it to remain in doubt whether he had been any great gainer by having wound up his romance by matrimony ; his uncle evidently did not suppose he had, nor did he seem to feel inclined to forget his having sinned against the laws of morality, since he had mentioned the circumstance to Mr. Levi.

Not long after he had dispatched these letters, he was ordered, with a small division of his men, to take a circuitous route, to deceive the enemy respecting their numbers, while colonel Davers and another part of the regiment, proceeded by the nearest road to —, which the general wished to surprise. As our hero's march lay through some villages which were known to be friendly to the patriots, he halted, according to his orders, for the night, where he was likely to meet with the best accommodations for his men, and where he and several other officers were invited to take up their abode at a convent of Dominican friars ;

the superior was very ill, they were informed, but he had issued particular orders respecting their accommodation, which more than answered their expectations; nor were they less gratified by the conversation of those of the monks who did the honours of their abode, as they were well-informed men, zealous in the cause of the patriots, and anxious to assist the British to the utmost of their power. Having made an excellent supper, the officers were shown to their respective apartments, as they were to be on foot at an early hour, when the monk who accompanied our hero requested he would favour their superior with a visit, as he was very anxious to have a little conversation with him. Charles, though rather surprised at the request, made no objections, and was in consequence ushered into the sick man's room, who appeared to be labouring under a complication of disorders, brought on by indulgence and intemperance.

He received our young officer very politely, who having, at his desire, taken a

seat, he thus began—"Your name is Franklin, I understand, sir, and you rescued the daughter of the duke D'Aranza from a most perilous situation?" Charles bowed assent. "You afterwards married her, I have been told, and she died in consequence of an accident near Lisbon?" Charles again assented in silence, feeling greatly at a loss to understand to what this preamble tended: the monk who had introduced him had withdrawn: the abbot continued, "You have heard, I presume, that your late wife's grandfather was a Jew?" Charles replied in the affirmative, and the monk resumed, "Then learn from me, that he was one of the best of men; I, wretch that I am, was once his confessor!" Charles started. "He placed the utmost confidence in me, and he made it, it might have been supposed, to my interest to keep his secret; and till I was tempted, by increasing avarice, to covet his possessions, I felt that I was doing right in favouring the innocent deception of such a man; but when I resolved to be a rogue, I fancied it was my duty to betray

him to the Holy Office: but I cannot now deceive my conscience into a belief that I insured my salvation by my treachery; I now rejoice to think he escaped unhurt, and that he had previously removed great part of his valuables. This small casket I managed to secure, in addition to the reward I received from the church for my zeal, and to you I now entrust it, to return it to its real owner; tell him I am a real penitent, and that I only wished to have received his forgiveness before I died."

Charles could not afford the monk much consolation, since he thought that

"All should unite to punish the ungrateful.
Ingratitude is treason to mankind;"

but he swore, if he lived to return to England, to deliver the casket to Mr. Levi, but wished to be excused taking it now, as he was going upon a service of danger, and it might, admitting he could conveniently carry it with him, fall into the hands of the foe, but promised either to come or send for it in a week at furthest:

the monk was satisfied with this arrangement; and as we do not pretend to detail battles, or even skirmishes, since victory, it is well known, generally rests with the British, suffice it to say, that the general's plan fully succeeded, and that our hero returned within the given time to the monastery, where he received the casket from the hands of the now dying abbot, and renewed his promise to deliver it, sealed as it was, to his newly-acquired relative.

CHAP. XIII.

COUNSELLOR Franklin still sorely repented having derived so little information from Mr. Levi; not that he was inclined to acknowledge he had rudely stopped that gentleman's mouth, since he fancied that his perplexity solely arose from that gentleman's reserve. John continued his frequent visitor, and often threw out obscure

hints respecting Charles, wishing to feel his way before he ventured to declare his real sentiments. Lady Franklin, according to her general custom, sent him Charles's letter respecting his marriage, as she knew the circumstance was no secret to him, and she did not wish he should suppose she was inclined to keep him in ignorance respecting the movements and actions of his once-avowed favourite: contrary to John's expectations, the old gentleman made no comments respecting his brother's letter; indeed, this autumn, or rather commencement of winter, did not seem favourable to his general health; the weather was more than usually dreary for the season, and he felt a stiffness in one of his legs, which also swelled at times, which induced him to call in a surgeon, as he had an aversion to physicians, and fancied that the former, from being anatomists, were much the most skillful; as he applied to one of the first modern practitioners, this gentleman, after examining the affected part, and listening to his account of the complaint,

told him, he thought these were slight symptoms of *anasarca*, or dropsy ; this the patient pronounced to be impossible, dwelling very forcibly upon his regular mode of living, &c.

The surgeon was not, however, inclined to alter his opinion, and prescribed a total different regimen, more exercise, change of air, &c. and really so alarmed the miser, "who grasped and grasped, till he could hold no more:" and now his strength seemed failing, "looked back, and sighed at what he left behind." He therefore half resolved to spend his Christmas at Claverton: he had never been there since he had banished Charles, nor had he been even apparent friends with his brother since that event; but as he had continued to correspond with lady Franklin, and as he suffered John to, what he deemed, intrude upon him now and then, he knew that the most distant hint of such an intention would be received as a favour, and that he should enjoy every comfort, nay, luxury, at free cost, as long as he chose to

stay ; but ere he had come to any determination, sir George Franklin paid the debt of nature, and thus again disappointed the views and prospects of his unforgiving brother.

The baronet had not been well for some time, and had tried the Bath waters, from which he had received great benefit, and was assured by his physician that air and gentle exercise would complete his cure ; he therefore returned to Claverton, resolved to ride every day, and always felt the better when he returned ; he generally mounted his horse in the stable-yard, and often went into the stable to try the girths of his saddle, as he had once met with a serious accident, in consequence of the saddle turning ; the horse he always rode was rather playful, and generally bit at any body who was tightening his girths ; but the last time sir George was thus employed, he bit his arm rather harder than usual, which induced the baronet, who had his whip under his arm, to give him two or three severe lashes, which was so resented by the now vicious

animal, that after forcing him with some violence against the manger, he kicked him with such violence when he left the stable, that he expired early the next morning.

To the additional grief of lady Franklin, he died intestate, and thus left his younger children entirely at the mercy of their elder brother; since her fortune having been lost by the bankruptcy of her guardian, the settlement made upon them was no longer of any avail; of this sir George was fully aware, and often mentioned his intention of making a will; and thus "all promise is poor dilatory man."

His eldest son, who generally resided in town, where he had a house in Gower-street, Bedford-square, and who, as we have already said, had been sometime married, and was now also the father of several children, was sent for express, the moment the surgeon pronounced the baronet in imminent danger, and he arrived just in time to receive his father's last blessing; and though the dying man spoke but very imperfectly,

and that merely at intervals, he endeavoured to make him understand what he wished him to do for his brothers and sisters, not without some bitter feelings of compunction respecting the little regard he had paid to a *similar* recommendation, in very *similar* circumstances; his son was, however, profuse in his promises; all that he could do for his brothers and sisters he would do; they should find him their friend through life; he should be solely guided by his dear mother's wishes, &c.; indeed a bystander might have inferred, that he hoped his repeated assurances and protestations would put him sooner in possession of his father's estate, who died apparently lulled into peace and security by his son's behaviour, who shut himself up as soon as he was pronounced no more, if not to lament his loss, to arrange his future plans.

Greatly had he rejoiced when his uncle Franklin discarded Charles, as he had no fears of John's proving an equally formidable rival; since, much as he had once

affected to despise the counsellor and his money, he was now quite as eager as John to secure the possession of it to himself; and as he was well acquainted with John's extravagant propensities, which had again involved him in debt, he knew he could at any time display him in his proper colours to the old man, which must prevent him from making him his heir; still, as he possessed much of his father's artful cunning, he chose to proceed fair and softly, not wishing to appear to be paying his court to this capricious, but much-envied mortal; he had therefore, ever since Charles had been in Spain, been in the habit of sending him presents of game, fish, fruit, &c. to which he generally added a polite note of inquiry respecting his health; but he had to do with a man of great penetration, and who gave him exactly the credit he deserved for these marks of attention. The young baronet, who fancied himself a very Machiavel, eagerly seized this opportunity to address his uncle more at length, and he certainly displayed a fine flow of words, if

but little feeling, in his relation of his father's death, to which he added a strenuous invitation to the funeral, detailing the arrangements he had made for that melancholy ceremony, and requesting that he would point out any alterations he might wish to make in the order of the procession, the day, nay, even the hour, as he should pay the utmost deference to his judgment.

The counsellor was certainly shocked when he thus learnt his brother's death, as there was no great difference in their age, when he fortunately recollected that he died in consequence of an accident, to which he was never likely to be subject; as to the swelling in his leg, that proceeded from his leading too sedentary a life, as he was resolved not to believe it dropsical; but as matters had turned out, it could answer no one good purpose for him to go down to Claverton, at least for the present; when he had heard how his brother had disposed of his property, he might perhaps visit the widow; he therefore, in

a very few words, excused himself from attending the funeral, and concluded by compliments of condolence to the dowager lady Franklin and her daughters.

The baronet was very much disappointed; his mother was rather so, as she thought his presence might have proved a spur to her son's generosity, as she feared he would take every advantage of his father's dying intestate; her daughters were not more sanguine in their expectations, as they had never been invited to visit their sister-in-law, and had never more than dined in Gower-street, when they had been staying with Mrs. Moncrief, in Portland place: that lady was now in Scotland with her husband, and as they were visiting amongst the colonel's family, she had not made any of her sisters the companion of her journey. John had come down to attend the funeral; and Edward had come from college; he had, by his mother's desire, written to Charles, who was the nearest his own age, and though they had been separated at a very early age, they each retained a very pleasing

recollection of each other; Edward, in particular, gloried in Charles's success, and hoped, as knowing he was much the most likely to make a good use of the money, that his uncle would still make him his heir; this he wrote our hero, acknowledging that he feared they had but little to expect from their elder brother, and promising to write again, as soon as he could give him any further intelligence.

Nor did the baronet keep them long in suspense, as the morning after the funeral, he assembled the family in the library, to discuss the pecuniary arrangements he meant to make, in consequence of his father's demise. Addressing himself to lady Franklin, he thus began: "To my infinite regret, my dear mother, the loss of your fortune, before it was properly vested in the hands of your trustees, for the benefit of the younger branches of your family, must inevitably cramp my endeavours to establish them as I could wish; your jointure, of twelve hundred a-year, is fully secured to you; but had you been less amply

provided for, I should have made up the deficiency, though I need not tell you that my father has of late years more than lived up to his income; indeed, when we consider what a handsome fortune he bestowed upon Mrs. Moncrief, what a handsome allowance he made my other sisters, not to mention the addition he annually made to my brother John's emoluments, nor the sums he has lavished upon Charles, whose recent promotion must have cost him some money, besides supporting Edward at college, to fit him for the valuable living once in his, now in my gift, and which I shall certainly bestow upon my brother—but this recapitulation of my father's outgoings must convince every one present that I have not inherited an unencumbered estate; the nominal annual rent-roll sounds large, and before it was dipped and saddled with a large jointure, and before the taxes ran so high, my father might be deemed a rich man; and had he not lost your fortune, madam, and a large sum of his own, I should not have been re-

quired to provide for my brothers and sisters; therefore I am poor, in comparison to what my father was, even when he died."

"I am confident, George," said lady Franklin, "that the estate is not mortgaged, and to my certain knowledge your father's debts, I mean among his trades-people, do not exceed a thousand pounds, which, considering his income, must be deemed a mere matter of course; he gave Mrs. Moncrief five thousand pounds, and he meant to have bestowed an equal portion upon her sisters; and upon his younger sons; John is indebted for his situation to my family, and he certainly did receive some money to set him a-going; Charles never cost your father a farthing, since he was fourteen, till he went abroad; his various commissions he owes to his valour, but for the last three years your late father has made him a small allowance, which was certainly no more than his duty; and he was also, in my opinion, required to maintain Edward at college, to enable him to enjoy the living you seem to grudge him: you

dwell very much upon the loss of my fortune; perhaps in equity, you would be obliged to make up the deficiency to the family, but I cannot suppose you mean to restrict yourself to the trifling sum of twenty thousand pounds, which was all that was settled upon the younger branches, since your father intended, and he told you the same, to give each of his children what he bestowed upon Mrs. Moncrief—therefore I hope you mean to fulfil his intentions.”

“ I sincerely wish I could be guided by your advice, my dear mother; you heard me promise my father to do all that I could do for my family, and I had hoped you would have given me some credit for not taking advantage of the loss of your fortune, since I fully intend to divide the sum settled upon my brothers and sisters, between them; since I repeat, my father has left debts, which I am bound to liquidate; and I have a growing family of my own, nor did I receive much money with my wife, though she may in time be hand-

somely provided for; but this is a mere contingency—no certainty; and you must admit, madam, that your jointure will make a dip into the rent-roll of my estate.”

“ You have, ever since you married, sir George, received two thousand pounds a-year out of this estate, and your wife brought you a thousand more, and has very great, and very well-founded expectations of coming into four thousand a-year, in time; however, your family is unfortunately at your mercy, and you seem resolved to make them feel your power.”

“ Nay, my dear madam, do not condemn me unheard—listen to what I have to propose, before you arraign my conduct; in addition to your jointure, I mean to offer you the use of this house, and of that I occupy in Gower-street, alternately, rent-free; at all events, I shall insist upon your remaining here, till you have suited yourself with some other abode, if my proposal does not meet your approbation: Mrs. Moncrief is most amply provided for; I wish I could do as much for my other sisters; but

I must not lose sight of prudence, to display my generosity; I therefore propose to give them three thousand pounds a-piece on their wedding-day, should they marry; but while they continue single, and remain your inmates, madam, I will allow them two hundred a-year each, which will enable you to maintain a very respectable establishment, either in town or country: my brother John has, thanks to your family, an excellent place, and he will rise by seniority, I understand, and will, most likely, if appearances are to be relied on, be my uncle's heir; I shall not continue the allowance my father has hitherto made him, but I shall present him with a hundred pounds for mourning, and, at the end of the twelvemonth, I shall hold myself indebted to him the sum of one thousand pounds; I wish I could do more, as I grieve to see he appears disappointed: as for our absentee, the *Quixote* Charles, he has, I make no doubt, secured some of the late duke of Aranza's property; whether or not, as he is now a captain, he may be consi-

dered as amply provided for; but I shall make him the same compliment as I mean to do to John: for you, Edward, I shall reserve the living now in my gift; the incumbent cannot live long, and till you take possession, I shall allow you two hundred a-year, and I shall also give you a thousand pounds to set you a-going.—Twelve and three are fifteen thousand pounds, to which if we add the five Mrs. Moncrief has received, we shall make up the sum settled upon the younger branches; and I hope, my dear madam, that you now think I have done my duty. Should John not be, as I expect, my uncle's heir, I hope the old gentleman will make an equal division of his property, since Charles is the only one who can be said to have offended him, and certainly his late marriage was both imprudent and impolitic; but he will be the sufferer, not me; I can only grieve at his having played his cards so ill; I shall write to him as soon as I return to town,

and I dare believe that *he* will think himself obliged to me."

This was said, looking at those present, who certainly did not seem to feel themselves greatly indebted to him: lady Franklin, finding he paused for a reply, thus addressed him—

"I should have hoped, sir George, that you would have paid more regard to the avowed inclinations of your father; you have certainly entrenched yourself within the pale of the law, and unfortunately your father has left little or no personals; therefore we are all at your mercy, and are expected to feel grateful for your not having actually defrauded us of that proportion of the estate I am convinced the law would have assigned us. Your sisters may, while I live, enjoy some comforts, nay, some luxuries; but you are resolved that they shall continue dependent upon your bounty, except they marry, and three thousand pounds is not a portion likely to procure them husbands, especially of your stamp; your bro-

thers are still more to be pitied—surely they had a right to an equal sum; the *Quixote* Charles has the greatest right of any to a provision; so your father thought; but by not making a will, which, in his situation, was a culpable omission, he has left all his younger children entirely at your mercy.”

Her ladyship's long-restrained grief now overcame her, and she was removed in violent hysterics, followed by her weeping daughters; and the baronet, not wishing to renew the subject, declared his intention of setting out for London, as lady Franklin would be all anxiety to see him. John, who was resolved to get the start of him, knowing that he had much to settle with the steward, and many orders to give, left a short message with Edward, for his mother and sisters, and stepped into a London coach that passed the lodge, within an hour after the family party separated.

Edward, who was the most prepared for all that had passed, sat down, according to promise, to write to Charles, to whom he

candidly detailed all that had occurred, acknowledging that it rather galled him to feel himself such an absolute dependent upon sir George, who seemed to tread in their uncle's steps; as to the living, he considered it as his right; and if he did, as he hoped, take possession of it, he should always have a home for the reception of his dear Charles.

CHAP. XIV.

JOHN arrived in London between six and seven, and hastened to his uncle's before he went home; and as the old man was really anxious to hear how matters had been settled, he received him with some degree of cordiality, and listened with very gratifying attention to his detail of the morning scene, merely muttering, as he proceeded—"Aye, aye, this is retribution. The *Quixote* Charles—you are all very

ready to abuse that poor fellow, as if any of you were better than him; is he the only one of the family who has had a bastard?" John affected not to hear these hints, but took care to give the old man to understand, that he had fared so badly because sir George supposed he would be his heir; when, to his great, and not very agreeable, surprise, sir George Franklin, who had travelled with four post-horses, therefore much quicker than himself, was ushered in by dame Wood; and he was not more pleased when he found John had had the first audience; but with well-affected grief he paid his first compliments, declaring, as John had done, that he could not return home till he had paid his respects to his uncle.

"I am obliged to you, sir George, and as you have condoled with me upon our recent loss, suffer me to congratulate you upon your accession of power, which you seem resolved to use exactly as your late father did, in similar circumstances."

"Surely, sir, you have been prejudiced

against me," looking at John, "since I have endeavoured to do my family strict justice."

"When *justice* takes the lead of generosity, it often degenerates into roguery; your estate must have increased in value of late, and you ought to have given your brothers and sisters what your father intended them—five thousand pounds a-piece."

"Surely, my dear sir, I do not stand bound to injure my own children; indeed I should incur the serious displeasure of lady Franklin's father, were I to consider my brothers and sisters before my own offspring."

"My brother will never be dead while you live, young man; just so he argued, when he meanly took the advantage of my father's dying intestate, to defraud me of what I may say was my right; perhaps John there might have trod in your steps, had he been in your place; but the *Quixote* Charles, as I once styled him, would have acted very differently; he has never been

any body's enemy but his own, and he has risen by his merit; suppose he did marry to please his fancy, the girl is dead; but you think you are paying your court to me, by running him down; only take care you do not render me more clear-sighted to his virtues, and to your own faults; however, he and the other boys may be able to fight their way; your sisters are much less able to encounter pecuniary difficulties, so I will make your promised three thousand up five for them; and your mother shall never want a friend while I live, and when I die, she shall find I have not forgotten her; but as I do not put much faith in mere promises, I think you ought to give proper security for the fulfilling of yours; so reflect upon the hint; and now good-night, as I shall eat my oysters, and go to bed."

The baronet made his bow, declaring he was ready to enter into any engagements his uncle might think necessary, and protesting that he would make some addition to the sums already mentioned,

if he thought he had not done enough. This failed in conciliating the miser, who, for once in his life, was rendered generous out of the mere spirit of opposition.

John, who thought this promised bounty to his sisters augured well for himself, hastened home to write a long letter to his mother, taking all the merit of his uncle's kind intentions to himself, since his representations had induced him to be thus liberal; and concluded by declaring, that should he, as he had every reason to expect, be his heir, he would make a very ample provision for all his relatives.

Sir George was both vexed and disconcerted by the reception his uncle had given him, as he now feared, that by grasping at too much, more might slip through his fingers. His wife, however, soon reconciled him with himself, by observing, that "a bird in hand, &c.;" the Claverton estate was theirs—the uncle's money might never be; and he had done more than the law required.

He therefore wrote his promised letter

letter to Charles, which came to hand on the same day with one from his mother; Edward's last epistle had preceded both, and he had been gratified by this renewal of intercourse between them. Sir George's was a fine florid composition, in which he pleaded real poverty, as an excuse for his parsimony, and he certainly made the best of his own story, inclosing a bill upon Lisbon for the promised hundred pounds, and assuring him that he would pay him one thousand at the end of twelve months, requesting a receipt in return, and bestowing some very kind advice respecting prudence, &c. as a finale to his brotherly epistle.

Lady Franklin did not recapitulate what Edward had written him, but detailed her present and future plans.

"She meant to spend the ensuing six months at Claverton, during which time she should look out for an eligible abode for her and her daughters, where he (Charles) and Edward would always find a

home ; desiring Charles would apply to her upon any pecuniary emergency, as she felt it more than ever her duty to afford him her assistance ; she then dwelt with real satisfaction upon the counsellor's promises, which he had renewed in a very kind letter, addressed to her ; indeed she now hoped he would make John his heir, since, though she had much rather he had selected him (Charles), she trusted they would all eventually benefit by any one of them, sir George excepted, becoming the possessor of his wealth. Colonel Moncrief had behaved with great feeling upon the melancholy occasion, and had invited Louisa (her youngest daughter) to spend the winter with them, in Portland-place. Edward was returned to Cambridge, and she hoped that lord Malton would prove himself the friend of both her younger sons, as he had written her a very affectionate letter, and she had stated facts to him in return ;" requesting to hear very frequently from our hero, and concluding with her accustomed affection.

Charles, who was now in winter-quarters, was very differently affected by the contents of these letters, which he answered in due rotation, sincerely condoling with his mother, and declaring his unqualified disapprobation of the present baronet's conduct, hoping she would remove from Claverton as soon as she could meet with a suitable house, mentioning his hopes of returning to England in the spring, when he should pay her an early visit, and, he hoped, be able to convince her of his affectionate regard; to his sisters he sent the kindest messages, declaring that he longed to revisit them and England, when he might be able to give them some proofs of his love.

To sir George he wrote as to a man of business, inclosing a proper receipt for the ~~sum of~~ ^{sum of} pounds, but entered into no details respecting himself, nor did he make any comments upon his late behaviour, nor return him any thanks for his kind advice.

To Edward he wrote as follows:—

“ MY DEAR FELLOW,

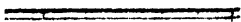
“ I should not have delayed answering your first melancholy communication, had I not expected your promised second epistle, which came to hand three days ago. We have indeed reason to regret the loss of our father, as he was an indulgent parent to us all, and while he lived, we should, I trust, have remained an affectionate and united family; I must also regret, for yours and my sisters' sake, his not having made a will, though I make no doubt that he fully expected his last wishes would have been law to his heir; sir George does not seem impressed, as I should have been, with the necessity of fulfilling them to the utmost extent, therefore, as he might have done less, he expects we should be grateful for what he proposes doing; and as I think a *divided house seldom prospers*. I trust you will agree with me in the necessity of *appearing*, if not *feeling* satisfied with his conduct: you are the only one amongst us who is not in some measure

provided for, and therefore the only one who will feel at all dependent upon our elder brother; but remember he now stands in the place of your father, and is obliged both by law and nature to contribute to your support. The allowance he proposes making you may, nay, must be inadequate to your expenditure at college; I inclose you a draft upon my agent, for one hundred pounds, the sum my brother has sent me, and which I have no immediate call for, therefore feel happy in appropriating it to you; so no thanks, I desire, for so very trifling a proof of my sincere regard; and should you require a further supply before my return, which I hope to do next spring, make no ceremony of applying to me, as I am convinced I shall be as able as willing to double this remittance.

My sisters cannot at present have any pecuniary wants; I presume they will continue with my mother; and, thanks to my uncle, they are not likely to experience any disappointment respecting fortune. You kindly wish I may inherit our uncle's riches;

believe me, I do not join in the desire ; fortunately there does not appear the smallest probability of such an awful responsibility being imposed upon me, since, I give you my honour, I sincerely regretted his having adopted me, from the moment he declared me his favourite ; and had I not feared that I should have materially injured my family, I should not so long have continued his dependant, since he did not even endeavour to lighten my chains, or, what he deemed, my vast obligations ; and the only precept he inculcated was, to endeavour to look down upon my brothers ; my heart revolted at his doctrines, nor could I join him in abusing my father, therefore we did not assimilate ; and I dare say he was as much rejoiced when my imprudence afforded him an opportunity of discarding me, with a show of justice, as I now feel at his having done so ; I only fear that the hope of becoming his heir will neither improve the temper, disposition, nor morals of John, and as he has a wary rival in sir George, he may at last be deceived ;

I therefore rejoice at your having been overlooked by Mr. Franklin, as I trust you may be happier in the end. I do not write thus because, having *found the grapes sour myself*, I wish to put you out of conceit of them, but from a conviction that you you are now, like myself, spared the misery of spending the prime of your life in flattery and attendance, when you may so much better employ your time, in placing yourself above either hope or fear: let me hear frequently, and at length from you; and believe me to feel the most fraternal affection towards you, in proof of which I subscribe myself &c."



CHAP. XV.

LADY Franklin, who had always preferred Charles to all her other children, had been proportionably hurt at his being, as she feared, cramped in his military career, by

his father's neglecting to make a proper provision for him ; she was therefore delighted to perceive by his letter that his own disappointment did not give him a moment's concern, though he so feelingly participated in his sisters' and brothers' ; she read his letter to her daughters, who, Louisa excepted, gave him very little credit for his professions of regard. " They cost him nothing," they observed, " and he might wish to secure himself an agreeable home in their mother's house ; if he had not been very imprudent, he might now have been his uncle's declared heir ; as it was, he must have rendered Mr. Franklin his enemy ; therefore they hoped their mother would not countenance him, to their injury ; he had not, in the first instance, sought an asylum at Claverton, conscious that their uncle would have resented his being received there ; and now that he promised to be so much their friend, it would be extremely imprudent to admit him as their inmate."

Lady Franklin merely replied, " that

little as she felt inclined to offend Mr. Franklin, for their sakes, she should never shut her doors upon a son she loved, and who was an honour to his race, and she grieved to perceive the selfish principle was so active in their hearts."

They were silenced, but not convinced, and when by themselves, openly blamed their mother, accusing her of partiality towards the *Quixote* of the family, to gratify whom she was ready to sacrifice their interest; and when they learnt how generous he had been towards Edward, their displeasure increased; if he did not want the money, surely he might have divided it among his sisters; what could Edward want, situated as he was? in short, so far from giving our hero credit for his kind intention, they accused him of pride, want of regard for them, and want of duty to their mother; Louisa alone defended him; and as she was warmed by the justice of her cause, she soon shared in their dislike.

John, who learnt the circumstance from his elder sister, was no less displeased;

"such a sum would have been of serious service to him," he wrote her, "and if Charles was so flushed with cash, he had a greater right to have bestowed it upon him than upon Edward; and concluded by hinting "he feared their mother had secretly supplied him with means to be thus generous, at their expence."

Nor did he suffer his uncle to remain in ignorance of Charles, having, as he represented, rejected the hundred pounds sir George had sent him, at least made it over to Edward; he must therefore be very proud, or very rich.

"Or more generous than either you or sir George, hey! at all events, he has convinced me he has learnt prudence, and, as I have often said, he has my spirit."

John secretly wished the old man would display this boasted spirit, but said no more, hoping he had convinced him that Charles did not want money.

Sir George had so completely alienated the regard of his mother, and so seriously offended his sisters, that probably he would

have remained in ignorance of the circumstance, if the steward, who thought it his duty to pay his court to him, had not mentioned it to him, when he waited upon him in town respecting the Christmas audit; and certainly had our hero purposely studied to mortify the baronet, he could not have done it more effectually; and he resolved, in revenge for the unpleasant sensation he had so unintentionally made him experience, not to pay him the promised thousand pounds till he asked for it, if then.

While he was thus resolving to perplex *Quixote*, as the family now termed Charles, having first given him that *sobriquet* after the example of their uncle, and which they now continued, to gratify their own spleen, Mr. Franklin, who already half repented his hasty promise respecting his nieces, learnt that the earl of Kinmare had died the preceding day, at his sister's villa, near Watford, whither he had just returned from Bristol; his death had been so long expected, that it occasioned him no surprise,

and he only hoped (as he knew all the estates which could be alienated must be sold) that he should make some good bargains, as he was resolved to make an immediate offer for most of them, and if they did not come into his terms, to foreclose, as he had advanced full two-thirds of their value. The ensuing six weeks he therefore devoted to calculations respecting his different mortgages, which induced him to defer fulfilling his promise to his nieces; they were not going to be married, he found, therefore they might wait his leisure; besides, he could not at present part with any cash; he must first settle this business; and this he wrote lady Franklin, in answer to a polite letter of inquiry from her, hinting, that his present speculations might ultimately prove beneficial to her and her daughters; and with this vague expectation they, perforce, affected to be perfectly satisfied; when, as if to realize all his wishes, a gentleman, high in the law, called upon him from lady Susan Delany, to request a further loan of twelve thousand

pounds, to discharge debts of honour of her late brother's. "Debts of honour!" exclaimed the astonished counsellor, "why she must be insane! what need she enthrall herself to liquidate what the law considers as null? she cannot be sued in damages, if she has administered—surely, Mr. Jarvis, you cannot connive at her being thus grossly imposed upon?"

"You know enough of my character, I should suppose, Mr. Franklin, to have rendered your last question unnecessary; lady Susan is very unpleasantly situated, and as a friend, *though not as a lawyer*, I approve of her intention; I need not tell you that sir John Saunders was the most intimate friend of her late brother, and he was very anxious to form a nearer connection with him; but he did not stand so high in the good graces of the sister as he did in those of the earl; but trusting to his dexterity, or rather to the having entangled her in his toils, as he foresaw that she would think herself bound in honour, as the earl's heir and sole executrix, to liqui-

date all his debts, he contrived to obtain a sort of security from the dying man, for twelve thousand pounds, which he offered to cancel, if lady Susan would listen to his suit; she felt more than indignant at the proposal, and ordered her doors to be shut against him in future; and he declares that he will enforce his security, and if she hesitates to pay the money, threatens to throw the business into Chancery. Now, I dare say, he would be no gainer by so doing; still, as the earl was weak enough to give him this security, say it was intended for two, instead of twelve thousand pounds, we cannot prove the fact, though to me that appears the most likely; but situated as lady Susan is, I cannot blame her for chusing to set such a scoundrel at defiance."

"I would indeed set him at defiance, but not by paying his demand; let him seek his remedy in Chancery; he will only burn his fingers; since, pray, what is to become of her ladyship, when she has spent all her money in satisfying her brother's creditors?"

"I do not conceive, she will be a very material sufferer in the end, since the earl has left her every acre that he could alienate, and some part of the estates fell to her at his demise; they have certainly been deeply mortgaged, still they will sell for much more money."

"That I rather doubt; does she mean they should go to the hammer?"

"She has not decided, as she means to be wholly guided by her maternal uncle's (lord Marchmont) advice, to whom, you know, she is also heir, and at his demise, she will be a baroness in her own right; he would readily advance the sum she requires, but she is unwilling to let him know how deeply her brother was involved; she means to take up her abode with his lordship, in the north, for the present, as she now intends to dispose of Rose Hill, but not immediately; indeed lord Marchmont rather wishes her to do so, as he thinks it will fetch more, in proportion, than it brings in; but this is strangely wandering from

my business ; will you advance the money she wants ?”

“ I will do any thing to oblige either you or her ladyship ; all I expect in return is, to have the refusal of the estates she means to sell, and of Rose Hill ; I will give a fair price, and my money is ready any day.”

Mr. Jarvis readily engaged for this favour being shown him, and thus the business was settled. Lady Susan paid the money to the worthless baronet, and Mr. Jarvis undertook to have the estates valued, and to offer them to the counsellor at the price agreed upon, which he much doubted his giving ; but he made no doubt of their fetching as much, or more, if sold by auction ; therefore he trusted lady Susan would never have reason to repent having attended to the suggestions of conscience.

CHAP. XVI.

LITTLE of moment occurred, during the ensuing five months, in the Peninsula, in which our hero was materially concerned, though he was in many petty skirmishes, and the British arms were every where successful. Colonel Davers was promoted to the rank of major-general, and appointed to the command of a division of the army which was ordered to proceed to the south of Spain; he could not therefore, as he had intended, return to England with the remains of his regiment, which was ordered home to recruit its ranks, and Charles was among the officers who were appointed to accompany it to Great Britain, as both the commander-in-chief and general Davers knew his presence was required in England, and thither they wished him to remove all he had inherited from his wife. He had kept up a constant correspondence

with Mr. Levi, who had in every letter requested he would make his house his home, when he visited London, as he had so much to say to him, and so many pecuniary concerns to settle with him, that he wished to have him all to himself, for a short time. General Davers advised him to accept his invitation, but did not approve of his disclosing, even to him, the extent of his riches; alledging, in support of his opinion, donna Victoria's own wishes to keep him in ignorance of the gold which her father had so privately accumulated; in short, he urged so many reasons for suffering him to remain in ignorance of what might be deemed his ready cash, that Charles rather reluctantly, and more to evince his deference to his opinion, than from any fears he entertained of Mr. Levi's want of integrity, agreed to be guided by his advice, and in consequence accepted a letter to an eminent banker, who would undertake, the colonel was convinced, to dispose of his coin, and to place the produce in Exchequer bills, or East-India bonds, at his

option ; and as this might be done unknown to Mr. Levi, general Davers maintained it was upon every account more prudent. Charles was not absolutely convinced by his reasoning ; but as, upon receiving the promised letter, he found he had been at Eton with the son of the head partner in the firm, he felt more reconciled to the measure, as he could thus renew his acquaintance with a very pleasant young man ; and were Mr. Levi to learn what he had done, he could plead a friendship of long standing for William Thornhill, which might satisfactorily account for his prudence.

Having taken an affectionate leave of general Davers, and a respectful one of his beloved commander-in-chief, he set out for Lisbon, with that part of the army which were going home to recruit their ranks. Among the men under his particular command, was a soldier whom he had raised to the rank of corporal, who generally acted in the capacity of his servant,

by which means he had become very intimate with Susan May, who still remained at Lisbon, under the protection of Mrs. Maddocks: Charles had given her all his late wife's wardrobe, after her demise, and there were so many valuable articles included in the gift, that she had realized more than two hundred pounds by the sale of them.

This she had written Edward Ford, the corporal, who having also realized a small sum, and being rendered, owing to a severe wound in the thigh, incapable of "assisting to conquer the French," his only regret, he thought, as he was returning home, to be placed upon the list of out-pensioners belonging to Chelsea-Hospital, that she would make an excellent match for him, as he was, lameness apart, not disfigured by his misfortune, and could now set up his original trade of shoemaking, in his native village, in Northamptonshire. As he still continued to attend upon our hero, who had been a very kind friend to him, while he was confined by his wound, he

ventured to mention his wishes to him, during their route, observing, that "he had broken the ice to Susan, and she did not seem averse to his proposals, therefore a good word, by the way of recommendation, from his honour, would conclude the business, as she (as in duty bound) thought it necessary to consult him (the captain) before she came to any decision."

Charles, who had so high an opinion of Edward Ford, that he had felt half inclined, notwithstanding his lameness, to have retained him in his service, promised to speak to Susan in his behalf, resolving to add to their little hoard, if necessary, when they reached England; telling *Ned*, as he usually styled the corporal, he should not finally discharge him till they reached London.

Ned was ready to go through fire and water to ~~serve~~ ^{serve} him, and felt much lighter at heart than our hero did, when they reached Lisbon, as Charles was but too forcibly reminded of his last journey thither, and its fatal termination to donna Victoria;

but having performed his military duties, and understanding that they were not likely to sail for a week, he seized the earliest opportunity to pay his respects to the Maddocks family, who received him with infinite cordiality, and insisted upon his spending every hour with them, which his duty permitted him to give to society.

Susan was delighted to see him, though she could not restrain her tears when they first met, and he felt a renewal of his grief; but when he again saw her, he did not forget Edward; and as she was very anxious to return home, and not at all averse to putting herself under Ned's protection, they were united by the chaplain to the Factory, on the seventh day after our hero's arrival; and on the following, they embarked in the same transport with our hero, with a fair wind, for England. Previous to their putting the baggage on board, Charles thought it necessary to examine what he styled his treasure: there were seven curiously-constructed boxes, exactly of the same size; these, donna Victoria had told

him, contained money, and were what she wished to conceal from her grandfather; the jewels he had already seen, and the chests which still remained he understood contained the plate and valuables belonging to the chapel at Aranza, and a small service of gold plate, the gift of her grandfather to her mother; these he did not chuse to unpack; but having the keys about him, he broke the seals of one of the seven boxes, and found it contained gold coin, packed in rouleaus, to the amount of ten thousand pounds sterling at least; and as the other six boxes were of equal weight, he made no doubt of their contents being equally valuable, therefore did not open them, and they were put on board as boxes of dollars, the chests as containing some bulky articles of plate: Mr. Maddocks having urged the necessity of representing them as of trifling comparative value, upon various accounts; therefore even our hero's brother officers thought his baggage much more bulky than valuable, even remarking

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the old duke had trusted too much to chance; since he must have had time to convert some of this *lumber* into gold, which would have been much easier removed; now he (Charles) must hire a waggon to convey the chests to London. Charles had not come to any such determination, nor to any other, when they landed at Portsmouth; and as he had full leave to proceed immediately to town, and to suffer the military duty attached to his station to devolve upon the next in command, he had it in contemplation to send the larger chests by a waggon, under the care of Edward and Susan; but upon consulting with the master of one of the principal inns, to whom he represented the boxes to contain dollars, the chests plate, he advised his securing the whole of one of his heavy coaches, in which he might travel himself, and place the lame soldier ~~and his rifle~~ as farther guard without: this was so ~~some~~ ^a feasible plan, and so completely obviated every difficulty which he had dreaded and fore-

seen, that he immediately closed with the proposal; therefore having taken leave of his brother officers the overnight, assuring them that he would pay his devoirs at the War-Office the morning after his arrival in town, that they might receive their marching orders, he rose at the appointed time, and having seen the seven boxes and three jewel caskets, including the one he had received from the monk, stowed in the inside of the vehicle, and the chests *fore* and *aft*, he took his seat inside; the now happy and truly grateful Ned and Susan ascended the dicky, the coachman smacked his whip, and off they drove.

Our hero rejoiced at finding himself once more *at home*, and, thanks to an all-ruling Providence, so much richer than when he left England; he had not written to any of his family from Portsmouth, nor had he given them any reason to expect him so soon, as he wished to dispose of all he brought over, and to make various other arrangements, ere he gave way to his wish

to embrace his mother, his favourite Edward, and Louisa, or to express his gratitude to his equally-beloved James Frazer, to whom he considered himself indebted for his present fortune.

END OF VOL. II.

